

# The

12001 Chalon Road,  
Los Angeles, CA 90049  
10 Chester Place,  
Los Angeles, CA 90007

# Oracle

Mount St. Mary's College

October 10, 2000

Volume 7, Number 1

## Doud's Inauguration Marks the End of an Era

By Julie Ahn  
and Joan Fletcher

Opinions Editor and Editor

The Mount is celebrating its 75th Anniversary. For 75 years, women have received a quality Mount education. For 75 years, thousands of young women have learned the ideals put forth in the mission of the college. For 75 years, the sisters have run the college... This Friday, October 13, 2000, that last tradition will be no more.

No doubt the Sisters of the Congregation of St. Joseph (CSJ) will still play an active role on campus, but their presence has diminished. For the first time in 75 years, a lay person will be taking the honors of being the president of the college.

"It shows that the tradition of the Mount is so embedded, that she will be ready and able to continue the roots of the college," says Dr. Jane Lingua, vice-president of Student Affairs answering any doubts about the replacement of a lay person potentially changing the Catholic mission of the Mount.

But, other students have mixed feelings about the precedent the Mount is setting with the first lay person president.

"I'm struggling with it," admits Gina Christ, who has a few reservations about what Dr. Doud's presence may mean, but realizes the practicality of the change.

"It's reflective of the way the church is now...there are not a high number of sisters teaching or in administration, and maybe this is just revealing that."

Though some student are afraid of the transition, others are only optimistic about the future of Dr. Doud's presidency.

"I'm really excited. I think that she will go beyond the traditional and do really great things for the school," says fourth year student Narom Pich.

Dr. Jacqueline Powers Doud, who took the position of the 11th president of the college on July 1, 2000, will be officially inaugurated October 13, 2000.

Festivities include a barbeque at Doheny on Thursday, October 12, 2000 from 4-6:30 pm and the official ceremonies on Friday, October 13 at 10 am-2 pm. All

will each present Dr. Doud with a lantern engraved with the school's Latin motto: "Deus illuminatio Mea" or "God is my light," which Dr. Doud will keep in each of



Dr. Doud: Courtesy of www.msmc.la.edu; Chapel: By Joan Fletcher, *The Oracle*  
The Inauguration of the Mount's 11th President, Dr. Jacqueline Powers Doud, will take place on Friday, October 13, 2000 at the Chalon campus. Here, Doud's profile overlays a view of the Chapel, where part of the ceremony will take place.

students and staff have been invited to share in the festivities.

"We want to celebrate the new beginning of the institution, both present and past roots," explains Dr. Lingua on the purpose of the inauguration.

The day will begin at 10:00 a.m. with a prelude in the chapel, followed by a gathering in the circle. The actual ceremony will take place at 10:30 a.m.

"It will be very traditional, but also very personal... Dr. Doud will be the main speaker, but different members of the community will give greetings. Dr. Robert Doud (Dr. Doud's husband) will read a beautiful poem he wrote," says Dr. Lingua, elaborating on the ceremony's highlights.

Other notable events include the arrival of alumni representing the classes of 1935-2000. Current students will also play an integral role as ASB presidents from both Doheny and Chalon campuses

her offices.

Providing a refreshing change from the traditional ceremony will be a very non-traditional lunch. In honor of both Dr. Doud's French academic background, and the history of the order of the Sisters of St. Joseph, which was established in France, the menu will feature gourmet French food. All guests will be invited to eat in either the faculty dining room, the carousel room, the art gallery, or, interestingly, the second floor of the Humanities building. However, don't expect student desks.

"The second floor of the Humanities will be converted into a 'Parisian cafe,'" laughs Dr. Lingua who hopes that students will take advantage of the unique setting.

Though students at the Mount agree that the event is significant, most feel it is a time for catching up on sleep or enjoying their prolonged three-day weekend. With some students simply opting out of the

Inauguration to sleep in, others are staying home due to the Mount's policy that students, faculty, and administrators are not allowed to park on campus, starting from Thursday at 7:30 p.m. through Friday at 2:00 p.m. Parking on Chalon and on Bundy is also prohibited and will be enforced by ticketing.

"It's so inconvenient for students not to be able to park at Chalon on Inauguration day...It seems like they care more about the 'big wigs' they invited than the students coming," states third year Stacey Parecia.

However, Lingua denies the claim, citing that the Mount has made exhaustive provisions to ensure all students can take part in Inauguration.

"We have tried to make this as convenient as possible... Students can park at Doheny and at a Park n' Ride lot near Chalon...with shuttles running constantly," says Dr. Lingua, in defense of the school's decision to clear parking for non-MSMC-affiliated guests.

The guest list includes such distinguished notables as presidents and delegates from schools across the country, including Harvard and Stanford. The overall guest list for the Inauguration tops an estimated 1200 people.

Still, some students are not impressed, nor convinced.

"There are so many commuters and students who depend on their cars...it just makes life that much harder for students," declares second year Laura Narina.

Lingua emphasizes that it is not just students who are being denied parking access, but also faculty and administrators. Responding further to disgruntled students, Lingua declares, "We have guests from all over the country and want to welcome them with hospitality...this is only one day, under the most extraordinary of conditions that students have to make this sacrifice."

She goes on to add, "If students got into the spirit of things, it could be wonderful."

## Horizon's Day Festivities Highlight the Mount's History

By Evangelina Savala

Reporter

Horizon's day was an opportunity for the Mount community to unite and celebrate the college's history. This day was meant to build pride and school spirit in the entire Mount community. The celebration commemorated the 75th anniversary of the Mount and the 350th anniversary of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, who founded the Mount.

The Mass of the Holy Spirit began the celebration. Afterwards, lunch was served in the Circle, with the menu including chicken, rice, and salad.

After lunch, many participated in a quiz on the history of the Mount. A draw-

ing was later held to determine the winners of prizes such as a stereo system.

Following the quiz, everyone was invited to attend the program at the Carondelet Center Chapel. The first 550 people in attendance received a book entitled *LA's Hidden Gem: A History of Mount St. Mary's College*. This book was written by a group of Mount students during the 1999 Fall semester.

Introducing the event, Dr. Jacqueline Powers Doud, Dr. Pam Haldeman, and Dr. Fred Simonelli spoke of many aspects of Horizon's Day. They emphasized the amount of work it took to make the day a success. Although many people were praised for their involvement, the real praised was reserved for the CSJ Sisters.

Next, a film, *Celebrating Tradition: The Legacy of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet*, was presented to honor the sisters' humility and charity. The film showed the sisters as ahead of their time. Despite the fact that the sisters were told that LA would never expand out to the property they had chosen to house the college, the sisters had faith and bought the 33 1/3 acres for the campus, which soon grew.

The film focused on the goals of the sisters and their courage, faith and dedication to their mission. By the end of the film, many were in tears.

To add more emotion to the afternoon, the sisters showcased their vocal skills, complete with tambourine and symbols.

All of the sisters sang with enthusiasm, while moving to the beat of the songs. Their performance left the crowd in awe.

Students from Campus Ministry assisted all of the sisters to the front of the chapel, and gave them lit candles and roses while singing "This Little Light of Mine." The sisters clapped and sang along, and some even danced! A student speaker gave the sisters many thanks, and gave them a blessing. In response to the respect, gifts, and song, the sisters blessed the Mount community.

The program was an extremely emotional experience, for the sisters as well as the students. Many learned more about the college and felt a larger connection with its founders.

### Inside:

Apathetic Voters:  
Take lessons from dedicated Mexican voters.

...Where I Stand, Page 3

Is homosexuality on Catholic campuses stifled or welcomed?

In-Depth, Pages 4-5

But I'm a Cheerleader movie "comes out" on DVD.

Pop Culture, Page 7

See a view of the Holocaust through the eyes of Mount students.

Last Thoughts, Page 8



# Chris Tashima: Asian America's Emerging Answer to Spike Lee

By Julie Ahn

Editor

There is only one thing Chris Tashima loves passionately more than his vision of Asian American films: his Oscar. No, not the hot dog brand, and not some ubiquitous childhood friend, a real Academy Award statuette. It hypnotizes, seduces, and even taunts you with its golden behind, but, in the end, it goes home with Chris Tashima, the 1997 Academy Award-winning director and screenplay writer of the live action short film, *Visas and Virtues*.

Tashima is a striking Japanese-American, who looks more youthful than his 40 years of age. Slouching in with a bucket hat and a white tee, Tashima appears to have gained no movie star pretentiousness along with his success as a filmmaker.

Talking casually and in frequent understatement (winning the academy award was "great"), he showed his film, *Visas and Virtues*, and followed up with insights from his experiences to a packed audience at Mount St. Mary's on September 13. The event was organized by the triple power of the art, history, and philosophy department.

*Visas and Virtues* is a labor of love for Tashima, who found the story of Chiune Sugiyama, a Japanese consulate who illegally gave over 2,000 passports to Jewish refugees fleeing Lithuania during World War II. Not only did Tashima direct and adapt the screenplay from the original by Tim Toyoma, he stars in it as well, playing who else, but the noble politician—Sugiyama.

But Chris Tashima couldn't have started further away from Sugiyama's royal roots. In 1977, like countless of other curious teenage boys, Tashima was entranced by the flickering images of *Star Wars* on the big screen. What distinguished him from the other wide-eyed boys was, at that moment, he unknowingly foretold his future.

"It blew me away and made me decide that I want go into filmmaking," he reminisces with a determined "Luke Skywalker" glint in his eyes.

However, the path to acting success was not as easy as Tashima naively anticipated. "My plan was to get into USC film school, make great students films, win awards, and make lots of money," he grins. "Well, it turns out film schools don't like people who are horrible students and I dropped out."

His meticulous strategy in becoming a renowned director now dashed, and left behind at the gates of higher education, Tashima did want any self respecting struggling actor in the business would do: He became an extra.

Working on films like *Lethal Weapon* and *Nightmare on Elm Street* wasn't the level of Scorsese status Tashima aspired to, but for the time being, he was learning about the entertainment industry and the business of making movies.

"And I got a free lunch," smiles Tashima. That same easy-going attitude helped him to search for work without getting too discouraged when he found a lack of available work for Asian Americans.

Snatching up trade magazines, drama-logues, and student film advertisements, Tashima finally found a theater company that encapsulated both home and employment for him. The East West Players, an Asian American theatre company founded in the mid-1960's, gave Tashima a chance to show what he had.

After his first "gig" playing the violin in a band for an East West production, Tashima declares, "I was bit by the bug." Building his reputation within the company, he started to appear in a few more plays, culminating in the project that would help him give birth to his golden

baby named Oscar: *Visas and Virtues*.

Feeling bitter at the fate of Asian Americans in Hollywood, he initially dismissed Director Tom Donaldson's suggestion on translating the play, *Visas and Virtues* to film, but later had, "a classic light bulb moment."

**"Hollywood is one of the more racist businesses... A story might work best with a white male, but if it's done too much, it becomes hurtful to [other ethnic] groups."**

"I saw the play in my head, not as a feature length film, but as a very nice short film... the film could help me develop myself, show the East West player's work... and the story could reach more people."

Quickly adapting Toyoma's play into a script, Tashima chuckles as he remembers, "I just added fade in at the top of pages and fade out on the bottom." The hardest part was definitely the yet to come: getting money, and lots of it.

Director Donaldson showed his deep dedication by showing how deep his pockets were as well. "Tom said, 'I have credit cards.' The project was green light from there," laughs Tashima.

Slowly, money, talent, and connections rolled in as people felt an indescribable pull to be a part of a film that was doing two incredible things: both documenting and making history.

The cast, from the producer, costume designer, and camera crew all rallied behind Tashima's vision to show an unassuming Japanese man, missing from history books and movies, but who quietly saved over an estimated 6000 Jewish refugees.

Though Tashima's honorable motivations for making the film are suggestive of Sugiyama's own humanity, a hint of the inner ambition that has made his career so triumphant is revealed, as he admits his less altruistic intentions as well.

"What drove me through some of the hardest parts of making the film was the Oscar. As a film student, you can't help

but think about it, so I made a lot of decisions about the short to make it Oscar worthy, like using 35 millimeter film which has richer sound and image, though it's more expensive." It's safe to say, Tashima has no regrets about the money spent.

Not content to sit on the laurels of his past success, Tashima is actively auditioning for acting roles, as well as struggling to finish a screenplay with two of his friends about another intriguing, but little known topic: baseball leagues in the Japanese internment camps of World War II. Could there be a pattern here? Tashima freely admits he is drawn to stories that help to dispel Asian American stereotypes as well as bring attention to the eclectic lives of inspiring Asians.

"If I don't make them, they won't be told," he boldly acknowledges, giving off an uncharacteristic flash of anger towards an entertainment industry that he claims, is almost totally based on box office successes of lucrative Caucasian film stars.

"Hollywood is the one of the more racist businesses. They are allowed to seek people based on race because of artistic value. A story might work the best with a white male, but if it's done too much, it becomes hurtful to groups," explains Tashima.

However, using his production company, cleverly named Cedargrove productions, a literal translation of Sugiyama's name, he is continually working for more truthful Asian representation in the media.

His own private comfort to the stereotypes of the "business," may be his own triumph over the system he perceives as white male dominated. At least for one magical night, anyway, he was awarded the academy award in 1997 and forced all the major players of Hollywood to acknowledge his victory.

Smirking, Tashima chuckles, "It was lucky that it turned out that good because I was not prepared for rejection from the Academy!" It seems the force is always with Tashima.

## THE ORACLE

### Executive Editors

Joan Fletcher  
Maya Gaddie  
Lindsey Truman

Editor in Chief  
Managing Editor  
Copy Editor

### Page Editors

Julie Ahn  
Asilki Jones  
Joycelyn Lee

Opinions Editor  
Features Editor  
Entertainment Editor

### Staff Reporters

Evangelina Savala  
Yared Salgado  
Connie Moreno

Suzi Schroeder  
Tiffany Thomas

Advisor  
Elena Barnes

### Editorial Policy

The Oracle is a non-profit publication created by the students of Mount Saint Mary's College. Letters to the Editor are strongly encouraged. All letters should be accompanied by full name and signature and may be edited for clarity and brevity. Unsigned letters will not be printed. Please direct all correspondence to The Oracle at 12001 Chalon Road, Box 52, Los Angeles, CA 90049 or via e-mail to oracle@msmc.la.edu. The telephone number is (310) 954-4083. Advertisements, commentaries, columns and political cartoons do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the paper, the college or the writer. Editorials are the opinions of the majority of the editorial staff. The Oracle welcomes articles and contributions by students, faculty, staff and alumni.

## VSA Celebrates Moon Festival

By Joycelyn Lee

Staff Writer

Mt. St. Mary's Vietnamese Students Association (VSA) held its annual Moon Festival celebration Sept. 15. The patio of 2nd floor BRADY was beautifully decorated with rainbow-colored paper lanterns, bright lights, and other decorations. The evening, noticeably more spirited than in past years, was a culmination of weeks of preparation.

President Cherish Hui started the evening by welcoming Festival attendees and providing a brief intro to the significance of the Moon in Vietnamese and Chinese culture.

Historically, the moon has functioned as a timepiece. Being an agricultural people, the Chinese and Vietnamese planted and harvested by the moon, thus it made sense to honor such a crucial element of their lives in times of worship. Specifically, the moon is at its fullest on the 15th day of the 8th month of the lunar calendar. The Moon Festival was made an official holiday during the China's Tang Dynasty.

Nowadays, the the Moon Festival's significance is more family-oriented. The round shape of the moon represents family union. It is a time for families to gather and enjoy fine cooking and devour traditional treats such as mooncakes.

This year's VSA Moon Festival tradition kept with tradition. The evening filled with entertainment, games, crafts, poetry reading, ice-breakers, contests, and highlighted by refreshments just as sweet tapioca

congee, mooncake slices, shrimp chips, and prepared by VSA members just hours earlier.

The e-board members performed two skits illuminating both Chinese "Chang O Ascends to the Moon" and Vietnamese folklore "Moon Lady ascends to the Moon" versions of how the Moon Lady. The story behind the skits is that "Moon Gazing" happens to be a part of Moon Festival activities. Folklore says that a young lady lives on the moon and if you peer hard enough, you might actually catch a glimpse of the Moon Lady on the fabled night. Both skits delighted the crowd.

Public Relations officer Dolores Patterson brought closure to the event, telling ancient Vietnamese/Chinese riddles and raffling off goodies such as paper lanterns, VSA food vouchers, and car ornaments.

When asked to reflect upon the success of VSA's first major event of the fall semester, President Cherish Hui commented on the festival's "great turnout... I was delighted to hear such positive feedback about the event and that so many students enjoyed it."

Her immediate goal is to encourage as many "non-Vietnamese students to join the club and learn about the uniqueness of the Vietnamese culture."

"VSA has a lot of offer to Mount students. Most importantly, it's a great way for members to have fun and learn at the same time."

Next Up: VSA's Free Wonton samples at the Weekend College Patio on Thurs, 10/12/00. Join the fun!



Joycelyn Lee, The Oracle

VSA President Cherish Hui demonstrates how to create a craft.



## Mexican Voters Outshine US

By Maria Martinez

Reporter

While I was on vacation this year, I saw what it was to have real determination and control over your own future. During my time in Mexico, I managed to experience the elections that were being held.

The state in Mexico is populated with indigenous people who do not even speak Spanish, but speak their own dialect according to the region they live in. They were sick of the government that controlled their conditions, and decided to do something about it: Vote. There no polling houses established in their vicinity, so the people decided to walk to the nearest voting booths. They left their homes at 2 a.m. and walked, forgoing food and rest (they were afraid of not getting there on time). Men, women and children of all ages decided to hike through mountainous terrain to make their voices heard in a decision that would affect them all. These people arrived at the polls at around 4 p.m., walking for a overwhelming fourteen hours just to cast their vote.

Only about sixty people walked to the polls, yet their votes did matter. Their candidate won by less than a hundred votes. Their lives may be effected by their vote, or perhaps it won't, but at least they were determined to try, no matter what the outcome.

The presidential elections are near. Are you ready? How determined to participate are you? Are you the type of voter that goes to the voting polls know-

ing all about the candidates and their platform, or are you the kind that is not really interested and lets election pass you by as easily as waiting for the sun to set?

Voter turnout in this country is at a low point. Why? We are a country of people who pride ourselves in being heard and exercising our rights. If this is true, then why are we not more involved in the decisions that will shape our future for the next four years?

I participated for the first time in the elections this year, and I am glad I did. I waited years to be able to vote and have my voice heard in a country that has given me so much. I felt proud of my effort, until I discovered that not only did most of my friends not vote, but they did not even know the candidates or the issues! How can we expect to change the world and make a difference, if at such a young age we are already apathetic and cynical about our government?

Other countries have no right to vote, and the children are born and raised without knowing freedom of choice. Why do we take it for granted here in the U.S.? Why do we let a small majority decide what will affect all of us over the years? If we want to change the way things are, we must do more than give lip service to the cause. Action must be taken in order for our views and rights to be heard and accepted by those that try to oppress.

Here at the Mount, all we must do is walk to the Campus Ministry and register--or is that too far for us?

## Suzi's World: Buses, Parking, Senioritis

By Suzi Schroeder

Reporter

First, I'd like to have a moment of silence for the dear departed Pixymobile, who passed away on the 405 Freeway this summer. She was a good car, as well as a very large and blue one.

It's that time of the year again. It is time to wake up early for class, stay up entirely too late procrastinating, and fork over large amounts of money for books and parking permits. For many Mount students, the new year brings new frustrations. This year it is the parking.

There are significantly more cars in the lots this year, making parking especially difficult. I've noticed that empty spaces are hard to find. Many students are forced to park illegally, often blocking in other cars or parking lot entrances.

There also seems to be an increase of cars parked up and down Chalon and Bundy. I hear that space is more available at Doheny, but they are still feeling the crunch as Chalon students and staff coming from the downtown area opt to take the shuttle to Chalon.

Never fear, your parking worries are over. I have come up with the perfect solution. I propose that one of the conditions to the MTA strike should be to add a route up to the Mount. If the bus drivers demand to take the scenic route up the hill, it will not only relax their day, but will help in the negotiations, as the rich Brentwood neighbors are sure to back the idea.

The route would be going up and down the proper streets, of course, as to avoid impeding traffic. It would not only be beneficial to the Mount, but the neighbors would

rally to the cause.

They no longer would have to risk accidents in their Beamers and Lexuses driving around the busy L.A. streets. They would be able to simply take the bus. Think how much better they would feel knowing that their car was safe in the garage and not on the 405 Freeway.

A bus route would also reduce traffic on Norman and Bundy, allowing for Mount students who opt to not take the bus to zoom unimpeded up and down the roads. Having the bus would also reduce parking problems. Students could park at the bottom of the hill and take the bus up. Think of the revenue that would generate!

Relations with the community would quickly improve because the neighbors will be so grateful for the new bus route. They wouldn't even mind the few students that park outside their houses and take the bus up.

Even without my bus plan, parking will surely thin out as the year goes on. Many seniors will contract the dreaded malady known as senioritis, which causes one to lose the resolve to do anything. The only known cure for senioritis is to go to the beach.

Personally, I have a severe case of senioritis, even though it's only the beginning of the year. At this rate, come spring, I won't even be in the country. I'll have such an advanced case that I will be forced to travel to some secluded beach in the Caribbean to cure it.

If the bus plan does not work out, maybe the Biology Department could find some way to create a strain of senioritis in the lab and release it on campus. Then the parking problem would be alleviated. If the everyone is at the beach, there will be plenty of parking.

## Lieberman Takes the Moral Road

By Adam S. Reisinger

The Towerlight  
Towson U (U-WIRE)

Money may not be everything, but it sure counts for a whole heck of a lot in politics. Joe Lieberman, who last week told a Senate committee that the government should stop marketing violent movies, music and video games to young children, is obviously ignoring that fact—and his stand is refreshing, even if it is misguided.

I don't agree with Lieberman, the Democratic vice presidential candidate and senator from my home state of Connecticut, and his crusade for government-regulated censorship. But at least he, unlike most politicians, has the cajones to stand up to the same people who are almost entirely responsible for funding his campaign.

The entertainment industry has always been known for its large donations to the Democratic Party, and as recently as the days leading up to the Democratic National Convention, President Clinton was cozying up to industry leaders.

None of that matters to Lieberman, who seems to be doing what most politicians would never consider — making choices on the issues based on his own morals and opinions, not what his donors tell him to do.

Lieberman truly believes the entertainment industry is marketing violence toward children, and, in all honesty, it probably is, and most politicians know this.

No politician worth his \$1,000-a-plate fundraising dinners would come out so strongly against his top donor's product. And because of that, there's no precedent to look back on and find out what the potential consequences of Lieberman's campaign will be.

Unless you look, ironically enough, at a product of the entertainment industry—the critically acclaimed 1998 movie "Bulworth." In the film, Warren Beatty's character, California senator Jay Bulworth, decides after putting out a hit on himself, to attack the insurance industry and its policies, in spite of the fact that the industry is all but financing his entire campaign.

Amazingly enough, the public loves the new Bulworth, and it propels him to unprecedented levels of success. Against all odds and logic, the same strategy actually seems to be working in real life.

No, Lieberman probably will never get the support in Washington to actually get the entertainment industry to censor its own product. But he is winning the respect of the public, a group of voters who, before the DNC, had Al Gore trailing Texas Gov. George W. Bush by almost double-digits in the polls. Gore now leads by that margin, picking up almost five additional points in the past week.

How the rest of the election will be affected by Lieberman's new crusade remains to be seen. There are still six weeks left before election day, and anything can happen in that time. Lieberman could even be swayed by "outside forces" to tone down his stance. But let's hope that doesn't happen.

For Lieberman's sake, let's hope things turn out better for him than they did for Bulworth, who was killed by his own friends-turned-enemies in the insurance industry. Because, while no one may be coming out against Lieberman now, one mistake in this crusade could mean the death of his political career. As I said earlier, money is a pretty big deal to the guys inside the Beltway.

## Editorial:

### Farewell, my Mount!

I hoped this day would never come. Yet every moment of the last year has been leading up to it. I hid from it and narrowly escaped it many times, but it has finally tracked me down and cornered me so that there is no way out. I am saddened, but I know what must be done.

I have served the Mount community as the editor of our newspaper for over a year now. I have benefited from a very talented and dedicated staff who has helped me through everything. We have been through a lot together and still have many challenges to overcome. I will be there through it all (until I graduate at least...), but rather than being the figurehead, I will be in the background.

This decision may have been the best I've ever been faced with. Imagine living out your dreams and then suddenly finding them crushed before you due to time constraints. This is how I've felt the last few weeks. I love working on The Oracle and presenting the student voice. However, as I enter into my senior year and prepare for life after graduation, I find I have no time to dedicate to any activities other than course work.

Reminiscing on my time at the Mount, I think back fondly to the Leadership Conference my freshman year, where I first discovered that I CAN be a leader. I had never thought of myself, as a generally shy and easygoing young girl, as being a leader, but by the end of that weekend, I had learned more about leadership than a lifetime of experience could have taught me. What was this all-important lesson I learned? Confidence.

Another important lesson I learned was the definition of a good leader. I began to form my opinions about leadership and discover what I thought about vital issues. I believe that one of the key qualities a leader must possess is a strong sense of responsibility. If you are not responsible and cannot stand up for yourself, how are you helping to

lead a group?

Keeping this view in mind, I began to assess my level of responsibility in the newspaper as well as in classes. Since I am here to learn (that is the primary reason to go to college...), my grades and level of achievement are extremely important to me. All of my activities, no matter how important they are to me, but be secondary. And so, looking at my current situation, with observations, tutoring, Oracle, church choir, work and familial obligations as well as class work, I knew something had to be dropped.

Sadly, the one activity that was not required for one of my majors and that took up the most time was the one that I enjoyed most... The Oracle. I have truly enjoyed being your editor, but I must step down, if not for my classes, for my sanity. I also was not doing the paper any good. Due to my hectic schedule and lack of time, we were unable to organize until very late and our first issue has shamefully come out over a month after school started!

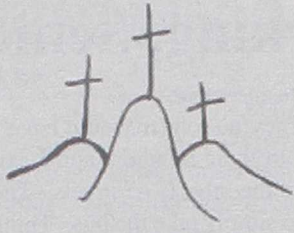
Keeping in mind the words of my leadership instructors, I remember that one of the hardest things a leader must do is to step down. Good leaders must be able to recognize when to step down. For me, this means I must be able to take the initiative and be responsible enough to admit when I have too much to do and can no longer do it all.

My dear Mount community, how I will miss you! I will remain on the newspaper staff, always supporting the new editor. At this time, I am not sure who will be taking over. There have been a few people who expressed interest and I hope that one of these enthusiastic and ambitious young women is able to fulfill the role.

To the Oracle staff: You are the best staff I could have hoped for! Thank you for everything and I wish you all the luck! I will see all of your names in print someday.

By Joan Fletcher, Editor





# Carrying the Cross

## The Experience of Homosexuality

**Lesbian and gay students at Catholic Universities are getting mixed messages. After the smoke clears from Catholicism's doctrine on homosexuality, uneasiness still lingers in the air, affecting students with its consequences.**

Boy meets girl. Boy likes girl. But, girl likes...girl? This story is increasingly being played out in schools across the nation, including Mount St. Mary's College, replacing the "traditional" standby of Jane and Dick, with Jane and Blaine, sans all Dicks.

Perhaps it is society's increasing tolerance toward homosexuality that has made gay and lesbians more confidently coalesce into groups and clubs on campuses everywhere. Opening her closet door with a grand flourish, Ellen DeGeneres stepped out in a fabulous new outfit. The brand? Homosexuality. She was the first woman on television to proclaim she was a lesbian on her 1996 self-titled sitcom, "Ellen." Though her show was canceled less than a year later, she paved the way for television's introduction of gay and lesbian characters as the norm in shows like "Spin City," "Popular," and "Will and Grace."

"Hooray for Hollywood," homosexuals roared, when at the 2000 Emmy awards, the entertainment industry gave its official air-kiss of approval to homosexuality. "Will and Grace," featuring two gay men, beat out more traditional fare like "Everybody Loves Raymond" and "Frasier," as best comedy television show.

The sentiment feels right: the first Emmy's of the millennium ushering in the new mood of the era: acceptance. However, as gays and lesbians are tentatively poking their toes out of closet doors, others are not so ready for their exits.

### Homosexuality and Catholicism Tiptoe Around Each Other

Homosexuality on campus is an emerging issue on Catholic university campuses, as administrators must find a way to "toe the line between freedom of assembly and freedom of religion," states Father Peter Liuzzi, director of Archdiocese Gay and Lesbian Ministry of Los Angeles.

Why all the fuss? The confusion rests in church cobwebs of tangled ethical dilemmas. At first glance, there appears to be no issue. After all, the Catholic Vatican clearly states that having, what they term, a "homosexual orientation," is not sinful. Lesbians and gays are considered full members of the Catholic community.

"Homosexual orientation is considered genetic and because of this, the Church doesn't consider it sinful, for morality says we must have the freedom to choose," Liuzzi offers as explanation to the Church's willingness to accept lesbians and gays.

However, the initial optimism to the Catholic church's acceptance of homosexuals is marred by a footnote that presents a startling predicament: Sexual behavior between gay and lesbian partners is a sin, and forbidden by Catholic doctrine.

"For the Catholic Church, the sexual act is symbolic of the creative power of God...it provides an openness to new life," Liuzzi explains. "Therefore, if the sexual act is not natural in its ability to conceive a child, it is a sin."

Warning every Catholic about the implications of this, Liuzzi emphasizes Catholic doctrine is not discriminatory to strictly homosexual behavior, but that the church's view of sex as a reproductive function, prohibits anyone from engaging in what he terms, "many different types of pleasurable, communicative and, giving sex. Even married couples are very limited in what they can do," informs Liuzzi.

Limited is the epitome of understatement, as Liuzzi sweeps almost all sexual activities, except procreative sex, as sin in the omniscient eyes of the church.

"Using birth control, condoms, pills...having oral and anal sex would all be considered 'disordered,' because these acts are not thought of as natural in terms of producing life," he bluntly states. What follows from this belief is that

shockingly, almost everyone—both hetero and homosexual, are sinning according to the official Catholic teachings.

### "There is a Real Discrepancy Between the Catholic Doctrine and Homosexual's Actual Behavior."

Gay and lesbian clubs at many Catholic Universities, from California's Loyola Marymount to Mount St. Mary's, all cluster beneath the umbrella of Campus Ministry, making sure gay and lesbian sexual behavior is kept in check.

"It's kind of like mini version of big brother watching over a group that is considered very volatile in their eyes," states Milton Quon, staff attorney for the Los Angeles branch of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

Loyola Marymount University faced similar problems when trying to establish their gay and lesbian club four years ago. Alumni and former member of the LMU gay and lesbian club, Steve Martinez remembers the battle.

"The school fought us the whole way. But, we actually got a gay and lesbian club under campus ministry, it had about four members," laughs Martinez, alluding to the criticism that many gays and lesbians have aversions to join a club that does not accept their behavior.

Sympathizing with Mount students who struggled to establish their gay and lesbian club, Dumont, who unsuccessfully tried to establish one two years ago, voices, "It [putting the club under campus ministry] wasn't a great idea and I can see why students objected. I strongly think that

**"Using birth control, condoms, pills...having oral and anal sex would all be considered 'disordered,' because these acts are not thought of as natural in terms of producing life."**

—Father Peter Liuzzi explains the Catholic view

there is real discrepancy between the Catholic doctrine and homosexual student's actual behaviors." Campus Ministry could not be reached for comment.

Whether there is a discrepancy or not, Father Liuzzi agrees with many administrators, believing independent gay and lesbian clubs are not entirely appropriate for Catholic Universities.

"Having the name of a Catholic University means that they can't take on a public position and go against the official teachings, they should not compromise the doctrine," explains Liuzzi.

Dr. Jane Lingua, vice president of Student Affairs, supports the relationship between campus ministries and gay and lesbian clubs.

"It's the most natural connection in accordance with the Catholic mission of the school," she says. Explaining the Mount's current lack of any gay and lesbian club, Lingua adds, "We are extending services to homosexuals out of campus because of the excellent resources that the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, Father Peter Liuzzi provides."

Though Liuzzi and Lingua believe the connection between Campus Ministries and gay and lesbian clubs are done for the higher good, Dumont disputes that. According to Dumont, what one of the factors may boil down to, is money.

"If word got back to the donors that there was this homosexual club at our school, I'm certain we would lose money from them [donors] and that's not lost on administration," speculates Dumont.

That's the game of fundraising, admits Sister Mary Williams, Provost and former Chair of the English Department.

"Money is always a factor in reasoning," but, she also points out that it is impossible to please the capriciousness of all donors. Explaining that some have refused to donate because of their disapproval of male visiting hours at the Mount, Sister Mary emphasizes that the Mount won't exchange beliefs for money.

### Religious Rights vs. Legal Rights

While the Catholic community may feel restrictions on gay and lesbian clubs are "reasonable" and within their reli-

gious rights, national organizations such as Gays and Lesbians Against Defamation League and Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund oppose the way Catholic Universities handle gay and lesbian clubs.

"If that's the only option for gays and lesbians to meet on campus, that's bizarre," says Quon. In fact, Quon feels there may even be legal issues involved with gay groups' difficulties at Catholic Universities.

"Look at this way, what if you have clubs that include one or two anti-Catholic sentiments, like maybe a women's rights club happens to be pro-choice...are they all going to be censored," challenges Quon.

Forcing clubs that may include ideas contrary to Catholic doctrine

under Campus ministry may result in some potential problems. Quon is reluctant to label the Catholic Universities' actions as illegal, but insists that it is "definitely not 100% legal, and is very questionable...especially if at the same time, you have other groups on campus that hold some beliefs against Catholic doctrine"

Lingua declined to comment on the possibility of legal implications.

Liuzzi admits that in the end, "Catholic universities shouldn't impose their views on people of other religions who feel homosexuality is not sinful...the church should always err on being inclusive." This seems a daunting request, when some feel the Church still isn't unified enough in accepting the first tenant of loving homosexuals as equally as any other member of the community.

"The Roman Catholic church should be crying into their handkerchiefs whenever anyone condemns a homosexual...but I don't see people mourning over Matthew Shephard and that is a tragedy," rebukes Liuzzi.

### Words to Baseball Bats Hurt

Third year Lana Walker\* feels the pain of being a Catholic Lesbian. "I always feel eyes on me because of the way I look...people know I'm a lesbian and sometimes they'll treat me like I'm not a person," quietly voices Walker.

Other students are backing up Walker's claim, boldly owing up to their homophobia and discriminatory actions. Fourth year Christina Juarez\* admits her discomfort in seeing lesbians or gays engaging in displays of affection, "I'll just roll my eyes if I see them...when it comes to that stuff, I think it's foul," disparages Juarez.

Disdain is only the beginning, according to third year Lindsay Ross\*. "In high school, went I came out, there was a group of girls and guys who attacked me with a baseball bat after school."

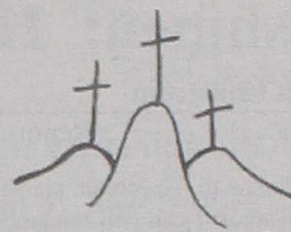
Ross is uncomfortable sharing, explaining, "To a lot of people, my story about having my butt kicked because I'm gay doesn't affect them, because it's like an after school special to them...they hear that kind of thing a lot...but no matter how many times it happens, each person's pain counts."

Anticipating a more open reception to her sexuality at the higher education of MSMC, Ross was deeply disappointed. "When friends found out, people would start avoiding me...staring at me, and saying things about me...I was

**"Catholic universities impose their views on religions who feel homosexuality is not sinful...the church should always err on being inclusive."**



# Loss of Catholicism: Sexuals at Catholic Universities



shocked when someone actually said, 'You kiss girls...and touch them, that's so sick!'

Though some students are squeamish, others view homosexuality as a person's own prerogative. Second year Mariza Vergara, vehemently opposes, what she coins, "The close mindedness of students at MSMC. It's not only hurtful, but up on this hill we're seeing such a small slice of life and when we get exposed to all different types of people in the real world, homosexual or otherwise, we won't know how to tolerate...that's sad," Vergara berates. The same safe haven of the hill, Vergara refers to, may in fact, represent the upward struggle the Mount is quickly facing, as homosexuality has grown as a more aggressive issue on campus in recent years.

"1999 was a big coming out year," observes fourth year student Jennifer Blaine\*. Second year Elizabeth Vida agrees, applauding the vocal presence the lesbian community made on campus. "I loved the fact that people were confident enough to come out, in fact, I think it presents more diversity at our school."

## MSMC: Hail Mary's or Blessings For Homosexuals?

Newfound outspokenness from lesbian students are now falling into the laps of Mount administrators and faculty, who are as uncertain as some students, in whether they should give out "Hail Mary's," or blessings. Sister Mary chooses the latter. "Our mission at the Mount is reverence of the individual...in terms of Mount values, we do not discriminate."

Though the

Mount contends its mission is inclusiveness, individuals themselves must decide how much of it to take to heart. Dumont perceives people's attitudes reflect that they have not been affected by the standard of the mission. "The administration would like to sweep it [homosexuality] under the rug," candidly states Dumont, who notices, "A great deal of homophobia on campus." Some students agree with Dumont, believing that the Catholic institution breeds more discrimination than usual.

"When people find out someone is a lesbian, there is so much talk about the person and a lot of distance...it's like a person's who's gay is a zoo animal," third year Lauren Ramirez\* confides. Dumont speculates on why there is just as much, and possibly more discrimination perceived at the Mount, than at other schools. "People might feel more comfortable discriminating at a Catholic institution because of the doctrine giving them a little leeway, but people everywhere probably have the same inner feeling," Dumont explains.

es shouldn't  
on people of other  
homosexuality is not  
should always err on

—Father Peter Liuzzi

bia at Catholic schools as compared to the larger society. The official word of the Church clearly supports Lingua's view that Catholic should least accept discrimination. In a document put out in 1997 by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' committee on Marriage and Family, it

plainly notes, "The teaching of the Church makes it clear that the fundamental human rights of homosexual persons must be defended and that all of us must strive to eliminate any form of injustice, oppression, or violence against them."

At the Mount, where the first attempt at a gay and lesbian club was denied by former President, Sister Karen Kennelly, and the second resulted in what some students felt, was a compromise of the club under campus ministry, some feel the statement of zero tolerance on oppression is not being followed.

"If these students are paying tuition, let them start whatever club they want to...gay and lesbian Catholics should have equal rights as Heterosexual Catholics," declares fourth year Melissa Cruz. But school officials contend agreeing to attend a Catholic institution makes it hard pressed for homosexuality to simply be another club on campus under Student Affairs.

"It can't be called a club, it's more a place of welcome and support," says Lingua in defense of the school's process. Suggesting that the school is actually trying to make the environment more fair for gays and lesbians, Lingua says, "We want to embrace the students without discrimination...we don't want to give a homosexual club undue scrutiny by giving them an independent club."

## Homosexual's Afraid of New Attention?

The unlikely source of reluctance for an independent gay and lesbian club might be potential members themselves: gays and lesbians. Even the few lesbians who were willing to be included in this article, seemed wholly uncomfortable with being both interviewed, and having a story extensively dealing with homosexuality and Catholicism. Third year Veronica Lee\* ensures that she is only worried that the topic will be portrayed scandalously, and also has apprehension about being identified to the entire student body as a Lesbian. "I wish I could be totally out and let you use my real name, but I just don't think everyone at this school could take it."

Derisively summing up her situation, Lee says, "Harassment, sure, I've experienced it from both teachers and students, but hey, I came to a Catholic University, I guess I can only blame myself."

Not so, says Dumont, putting most of the responsibility on the faculty and administration to teach and give students the message of acceptance and openness. "People are afraid of coming out, but many students are supportive...they are teachable, and willing to learn, and be open," insists Dumont, who hopes that the Mount administration will someday offer students education about homosexuality to increase tolerance.

While University of California schools offer freshmen an orientation devoted to sharing the diversity of the campus in terms of ethnicity, interests, and sexuality, at MSMC, this type of forum, is missing, though administrators express the necessity for it.

Former MSMC President, Sister Karen Kennelly endorses awareness for homosexuality at MSMC on a website devoted to college values, pledging her dedication to "...Work with our Student Affairs staff to bring to campus more educational and group opportunities relative to questions of sexual orientation."

She based her decision on what she feels is the wrongfulness of violations on human rights, affirming that, "We owe it to our students to overcome ignorance, prejudice, and fear." However, specifics on how to achieve the goal are absent from Kennelly's statement.

"It's something the college needs to consider carefully...we don't feel like we've 100% achieved our goal to make gays and lesbians feel included at the college," says Lingua explaining MSMC's mission towards homosexuality in contrast with the lack of tangible response.

Sister Mary admits that presently, the Mount may not be fully capable of handling gay and lesbian activism on campus, but considers it a very possible reality. "I believe that the Mount is a verb, not a noun." What this means, is that

like a verb, we're in motion, evolving with every mistake, we learn and move on."

## Future of Homosexuality and Catholicism

It seems the only true resolution to the confusion stemming from Catholicism and Homosexuality, will have to come from the boss upstairs: the Catholic Church. Liuzzi sees a glimmer of hope for the prospects for lesbians and gays to be completely accepted, both in orientation and behavior, in the Catholic community.

"When Catholic beliefs starts to gnaw at people and frustrate them...and when faithful Catholic people think homosexual sex is not sinful, the Catholic church may go through a process coined discernment," Liuzzi offers.

Discernments are equivalent to a football game's huddled referee conference over a disputed call. The fruit from this intellectual labor, where the church attempts to answer their grumbling congregation, may result in "developments" of the Doctrine. The Doctrine is then modified to appeal to more people, and keep satisfied any disgruntled members.

Liuzzi insists there is precedent in discernments working for mass public opinion on the topic of sexual activity. "Look at the 1960's, people were saying that when they have sex, kids are not always foremost in their minds; they're making love, enjoying themselves, and having pleasure," Liuzzi declares. "After a discernment on the matter, the Catholic community produced the Casti Conubi." This document declared that sex has more than just its procreative purpose; it was also a complementary activity between a man and woman.

Laughs Liuzzi, "Okay, it's not much, but that is revolutionary stuff for the Catholic Church to say." With the prece-

"The Mount is afraid of opening a Pandora's Box...with an open environment, they might see overt sexual behavior...they don't want to see it because much of the administration is Homophobic."

—Professor of Philosophy, Michelle Dumont

dent for discernments in place, many have hope that the Church may formally undertake one to give their seal of approval on homosexual behavior. Some, like Father Michael Wallace\*, views the anticipation of such a development in the doctrine, as a "sad illusion to keep gay and lesbians in the Catholic community who are praying one day things will change. The Catholic Church has its fundamental values, and those will always exclude homosexual behavior," says Wallace. The debate continues to rage, but as with many issues, internal support is considered needed by gays, lesbians, and transgenders themselves.

## "I'm Just Scared...It's the First Time Someone Has Written About This."

For many gays and lesbians at the Mount, the perceived challenge of improvement for Homosexual rights in the Catholic community is like fighting a tank with mere bows and arrows: a hopeless endeavor. Jane Randall\*, a quiet third year, who only recently came out to close friends, showed apprehension about how homosexuality, and herself as a Lesbian, were going to be portrayed in this story.

"I'm just scared...it's a really big issue and it's the first time someone has written about this" Randall says softly.

"Truthfully, I don't think it's going to get published," offers another Lesbian student who asked not to be named.

What these student's are not saying speaks louder than their words, revealing the difficulty in providing a comfortable campus atmosphere for all gays and lesbians to be honest and unafraid about their sexuality.

Fourth year Jackie Martin\* personifies the thorny challenge that lies ahead with her multi-layered comment, "Gays and lesbians need to see that change almost always comes from the people who want it. They have to stand up and the rest of us have to embrace them," she declares. Martin's comment is optimistic that students seem ready to look Homosexuality in the eye, and not avert their gaze. Then, she quickly adds, "Oh, don't take me wrong, I'm not a lesbian or anything...I'm normal."

Julie Ahn can be reached at julie\_ahn@hotmail.com

By Julie Ahn, Editor

\*Names have been changed for confidentiality



## Freshmen: Heed My Advice!

By Lauren Chilstrom

Reporter

Welcome to the Mount, class of 2004! As a junior, I can still remember that first semester of freshman year, trying to figure out the difference between H201 and DH201, and wondering where the heck the access door was, and why there was only one. While I can still recall the feelings of despair and confusion, allow me to give you a few key bits of advice that may help you on your journey through your freshman year.

One of the most important things that you should do is locate your nearest food source, other than the cafeteria. While the cafeteria is a safe bet on most days, there are going to be some meals when you walk into the cafeteria, view your selections and say, "you're kidding, right?" For those days, may I suggest some off-campus, inexpensive dining alternatives.

Just down the hill in Westwood, there are lots of yummy little places. Mr. Noodle (on Broxton, by the Bruin Movie Theater) has great Thai food for under \$6.00 per person. Conveniently located next door to Mr. Noodle is Diddy Reese, which offers a scoop of ice cream between 2 fresh-baked cookies for \$1!

For those of you craving fast food, In-N-Out is located on Gayley in Westwood. Wilshire Blvd. is home to McDonalds and Koo Koo Roo. If you're willing to travel, there is a Carl's Jr., Burger King, Taco Bell and another McDonalds on Santa Monica Blvd.

Doheny students are lucky enough to be located within walking distance of Figueroa, where you can find any time of fast food you may be craving.

My next suggestion would have to be

to make friends with your advisor. The sooner, the better. Say you get that pre-registration packet in November and you have no idea what you're supposed to take next; what do you do? Instead of picking random classes that may not even count for your major or general studies requirements, lay that stress upon your advisor.

Not only will your advisor help you choose which classes to take next, they can give you all kinds of advice about school, your future profession, and the direction you should take to get there. Just remember that your advisor is your friend. Well, at least pretend!

Finally, I think the best piece of advice I can give you is to have fun! Yes, college is a place to learn and study and prepare for your future, but if that's all you do for 4 years, you're going to go end up in a strait jacket, muttering, "Essay or multiple choice final?"

Every so often, just for sanity, grab some of your new college buds and get off the hill. Visit the Third Street Promenade in Santa Monica and see some eclectic street performers, or go shopping at the Beverly Center--well, window shopping usually. If you're at Doheny, the Village and USC are fun places to hang out and meet some highly desirable love interests.

The most important thing that anyone can learn in college is how to balance work with fun. While you should work and study hard for all of your classes, you shouldn't lock yourself in your room and completely miss out on all the fun things you can do now that you don't have your parents waiting for you on the sofa.

Oh, and don't worry about the freshmen fifteen--it's actually the freshman twenty!

## OTM: Featuring Michal Temkin

Every month, the Residence Hall Association (RHA) and the National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH) submit nominations for regional and national awards called Of The Month (OTMs), which highlight the achievements of students, professors, advisors and programs on campus. In an effort to increase awareness of these awards on campus, OTMs are printed in **The Oracle**. Any student can submit an OTM. Contact an RHA e-board member for details.

Michal Temkin has displayed great promise and enthusiasm as the RHA advisor. She is brand new to Mount St. Mary's College and within weeks of arriving, was asked to be our advisor.

During the month of August, Michal went above and beyond as our advisor as she was not officially our advisor until September. She was there for us any time we needed her and did everything and more than necessary an advisor would for their organization.

Michal and I met together just days after she accepted the proposition to go over my plans for RHA training and to educate her on RHA and PACURH (Pacific Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls).

She showed great enthusiasm and willingness to learn and gave input during our meeting. She even made suggestions on how to get some of my quieter executive board members to share their opinions and thoughts at training and in meetings.

Michal kept in contact with me all the way through to training, which she could not attend because of other obligations. She would call every evening when she finished her day to make sure things were going well with training and to check on all of us.

She even made it a point to come back

early from a trip to Santa Barbara to meet with the whole executive board during our movie and craft night one Sunday.

She has been especially helpful with our treasurer responsibilities due to the fact that our treasurer resigned during training. She has helped the acting treasurer figure out budgets and receipts to keep us up to date with our funds. She even goes over all paperwork our acting treasurer gives her to make sure that it is correct.

On top of doing all of this for RHA, Michal is the Program Coordinator in the Student Activities and Commuter Services Office, which runs our fall Orientation program. Michal was planning, organizing, and training the Orientation Leaders for Orientation weekend while keeping us in mind. She also started taking graduate school classes, which adds to her load. Yet, she is still able to attend to and aid RHA with their programs and needs.

Though Michal has only been our advisor for a short time, she has already done a great deal for us. I feel it is especially exceptional that she started her advisor duties long before she was required to help benefit RHA. For this, I feel Michal Temkin should be August's Advisor of the Month.

By Brooke Hardcastle

## Local Theatre Group Presents *Lysistrata*: The Women Who Ended a War

By Tola Heng

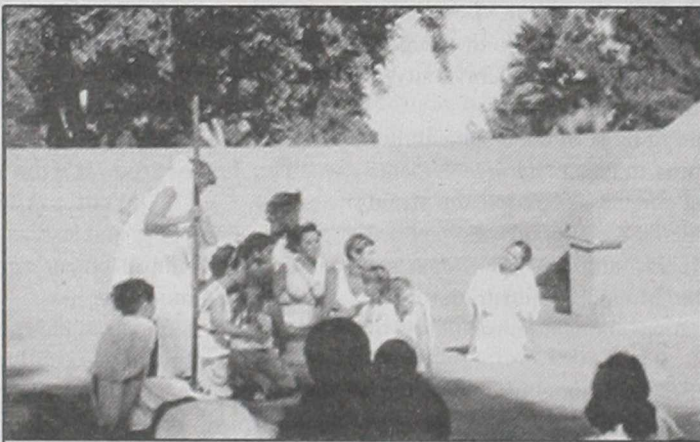
Freelance Reporter

"These are the weapons by which every woman can make the men of Greece lay down their arms. I ask you now, if we have such power, should we not use it?" The weapons *Lysistrata* refers to are not the blades of a knife or the barrels of guns, it is nothing more than the feminine wiles of cleavage and long gams. They decide to withhold sexual favors, so their husbands will stop fighting and come back home from a bloody civil war between the Athenians and Spartans.

That's not the only war, once the Athenian and Spartan women are united, she divulges that a war has been unknowingly waged against them. This war is the battle of a husband who leaves his household empty, his wife without a spouse, and their children without a father. *Lysistrata* convinces them that the only way to end the war and bring their husbands home is by withholding sex.

The Foliage Theatre Project has revived this ancient Greek Comedy, *Lysistrata*, and brought it to Hancock Park, free of charge, to the public. Using the translation of Gilbert Seldes, the dialogue is easy to understand and follow throughout the two-hour production. Artistic Director Deborah Guyer Greene and Producer Lauren Daniels of the Foliage Theatre did a wonderful job in finding their own interpretation of the play. With

the help of a superb cast, they transcended the superficial level of the play. It can easily be mistaken as a play about a sex strike, but it explores more profound issues.



Tola Heng, *The Oracle*  
The Athenian and Spartan women take an oath to never lie in their husband's bed until the war has ended.

Pacifism, the camaraderie between women, the women's rivalry with their husbands, and the themes of war are among the subjects explored in Aristophanes' *Lysistrata*.

Despite a lack of formal staging, good lighting and a sound system, the theatre project puts together an outstanding production. The play is able to pull in a crowd of 75 or more people at each performance. The audience was so captivated, that people strolling in the park or children racing their scooters, rarely distracted them.

Truly, the hard work lies in the job of the actors, especially since there is no intermission. Although the staging is informal, all other aspects of the performance are of the highest quality. The actors, directors, and costume designers are work-

ing professionals. They work together to dispel what a "normal" theatre-going experience should be.

Even the actors were unconventionally cast. The roles were not all performed by Caucasian actors. J. Karen Thomas, who is African American, superbly portrayed the heroine, *Lysistrata*. Latino actor Alex Fernandez wonderfully crafted Lykon, *Lysistrata*'s husband.

There are no sets, formal seating, and the performances travel; the audience follows the show from scene to scene. Soldiers emerge from bushes, the Athenian and Spartan women exchange acerbic words over the audience, and the women tanatize their husbands hanging from trees (which would otherwise have been the Acropolis). The audience is completely view-

people through classical theatre. In their mission statement, the Foliage state that in the age of decreased funding for arts education and high cost professional theatre, today's youth are deprived of live performing arts. They address this need through their dedication to aiding at-risk youth in local L.A. prisons.

Using a hands-on experience approach with classical drama and ongoing mentoring from professionals in the arts community through their Juvenile Detention Camp Program, they educate and enlighten about the arts.

They also provide classical theatre, free of cost, to the community, with free theatre workshops for children following all performances through the Summer Season.

Their current play, *Lysistrata*, may epitomize the theme of their theatre: Appreciate it when it's here.

**Come One, Come All!**

to the

**Presidential Inauguration of  
Dr. Jacqueline Powers-Doud**

Friday, 10/13

10 am, Chalon

**Student Barbeque:**

Thursday, 10/12

4 - 6:30 pm, Doheny



# But I'm A Cheerleader

nothing to cheer about

By Joycelyn Lee

Entertainment Editor

Have you ever seen one of those flicks that starts off as a real treat in attempting to tackle serious themes and then, without warning, goes sour about 3/4 the way of the movie due to an predictably easy copout ending that just DOESN'T do the work justice? *Cheerleader* (new on DVD) is one of those films.

Natasha Lyonne stars as a Megan, a disgustingly naive high school cheerleader who spends more time daydreaming about her teammate's voluptuous anatomies and the pics of female swim models posted inside her locker door than the boyfriend she despises french-kissing.

Naturally, this alarms Megan's ultra conservative, God-fearing parents and friends, who suspect Megan is a lesbian and immediately send Megan off to

"True Directions", a "deprogramming camp" for homosexuals. Think of it as as

**BUT I'M A CHEERLEADER**

Players:

Natasha Lyonne, RuPaul, Cathy Moriarty

MPAA Rating: R

Tagline: "A film of sexual disorientation"

Movie Goer's Rating: \*\*1/2

kind of Homosexuals Anonymous, complete with a snazzy 5-step program and graduation ceremony!

Although TD offers a catchy motto ("Straight is Great!") and a bizarre two-month, five-step program to alleviate your homosexual urges, it ironically promotes such feelings.

Mike (a delightfully ironic role for RuPaul) plays a "recovering" gay camp counselor who is so far out of the closet that he's actually back in it. The camp's

militant headmistress, Mary (Cathy Moriarty) has a hunky son (Eddie Cibrian) who favors short shorts, much to the pleasure of the male students. Everything at

TD is colored in garish neon pink and blue for girls' and boys' respective attire and accessories to get them back into a stereotypical roles. The women learn how to vacuum and clean rugs, while the boys chop wood and repair engines.

The first part of the movie is very comedic, sarcastic, but once the gag of the camp is introduced, the story switches gears, unsuccessfully, to a drama.

Another great weakness is that the director could have done a better job at mocking conventional notions of femininity and masculinity, if that was the goal. Surprisingly enough, the females of TD exhibit a wide range of personalities while the guys are pigeonholed into the stereotypical effeminate image of gays. If the story's intent is to mock traditional heterosexual prejudice and lampoon the absurdity of homosexuality being treated as an aberration or curable ailment, then why reinforce the stereotypical images?

The less than satisfying ending seems so out of sync with the momentum and comedic energy of the rest of the film, losing the message. As ambitious as the film tries to be, it's a shame that the lackluster ending has you walking out of the theater thinking "it could have been so much better."

## SCENE & HEARD:

### Top in Entertainment News

Compiled by Joycelyn Lee

Entertainment Editor

**Big Bucks:** Barbara Walters is renewing her contract with ABC News in an estimated \$60 million deal over five years—a record for a TV personality. With a paycheck that fat, who needs Penelope Cruz? Walters IS the woman on *Top*.

**Big Apology:** *Jane* magazine issued a formal apology to Liz Hurley after the model-actress complained that she was completely misquoted in the July issue of the magazine about the less-than-adequate prowess (between the sheets, that is) of ex-boy friend actor Hugh Grant. "I've never said anything mean about Hugh" insists Hurley. The couple split last May.

**Big Momma:** Diva Jennifer Lopez apparently would like her beau Sean "Puffy" Combs, Puff Daddy to some, to become just that. The pop superstar released a statement reporting that she wouldn't mind it if Combs made her a wife and mother. In that order of course. Looks like it's time to get down to some puffy business, Daddy.

### New CDs out this week

98 Degrees.....*Revelation*  
Green Day.....*Warning*  
Radiohead.....*Kid A*  
Paul Simon.....*You're the One*

### THE ORACLE's MOVIE REVIEW

#### Movie Goer's Ratings

\*\*\*\*\* Brilliant, inspiring, a classic, you get the idea...

\*\*\*\* First rate- worth your time and \$\$

\*\*\* Flawed but had it's moments

\*\* Desperation time

\*Someone please shoot the producer

## TOPZ—Faster, Healthier Fast Food

By Asilki Jones

and Jasmine Mohuiddin

Foodwriters

One lazy Sunday evening, searching for consumer-friendly edibles, we happened upon a small hamburger eatery called Topz (off Sepulveda and Ventura). Don't let yourself be deceived—Topz is not a normal greasy spoon burger joint. Think In-N-Out but better, healthier, with a soda and--sauce bar.

You enter a brightly colored, clean and well-lit place, reminiscent of Jamba Juice, but without the pictures of fruit and odor of wheatgrass. It is red, white, and yellow with modern, abstract paintings decorating the walls. The sauce bar is centrally located in front of the counter for easy access. And you can even see your food being prepared in a clean kitchen by courteous staff who aim to please. In fact, they tell their cooks "If you wouldn't serve it to your mother, don't serve it to our customers!" Cute.

We sampled the cheeseburger, spicy chicken breast, and the classic grilled cheese with burger (not to be confused with the cheeseburger), chili fries, and their famous aerofries, which are air-fried and topped with sea salt. You don't even miss the grease! They are actually good, really, and only 239 calories for about a medium-sized serving. They also provide all the caloric and fat information on a convenient little card at the register.

For beverages, we sampled the piña colada and chocolate shakes, as well as the soda bar, above which they have several recipes for various 1950s-style soda concoctions. The

shakes were sketchy, but that is probably because we didn't read the menu properly and they were really smoothies. Let us just clarify right now that a chocolate smoothie is NOT a chocolate shake. You NEED the creaminess. These shakes were too icy for our taste. I sent my chocolate shake back and they were very gracious about giving me a replacement piña colada free of charge.

Their bread baked by a master French baker (available only at Topz) is divine! They are simply the best burger buns you have ever tasted. The sandwiches were fresh and generous in toppings. We also had fun at the sauce bar. There was everything from your standard ketchup, mayo, and mustard to teriyaki, garlic ketchup, garlic mayo, barbecue sauce, ranch, blue cheese, and other creative condiments.

The prices at Topz are debatable. It all depends on if you really want to spend the extra dough to keep the grease out of your food. A meal is generally between \$7 and \$10, so it's not the place to go if you are broke. However, it is a refreshing change from the standard burger joints like McDonald's, Jack in the Box, and even In-N-Out. The only drawback is that you are paying for it. You could just as easily go out for Thai or Mexican or any other normal sit-down place. However, it is worth trying, even if you don't like burgers. The chicken sandwich was really yummy. They also serve ahi sandwich and salads.

If you're in the UJ neighborhood or just need to get off the hill and go somewhere besides Westwood or Santa Monica. Go to Ventura. Go to Topz. Go for the food.

## Janet Robin: Next Rock Legend?

By Joan Fletcher

Editor

Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton, Santana—these men are recognized as a few of the greatest guitar players to grace the music scene. However, that is just the problem—these are all men. Where are the role models for the little girls who prefer the rocking guitar to the subtle and "proper" piano? Enter Janet Robin, Female Rock Legend Hopeful.

A fan of the guitar from a young age, the Los Angeles native grew up listening to rock bands such as the Beatles, Jimi Hendrix, Led Zeppelin, Heart and David Bowie. These would grow to be some of her biggest influences as she matured in her musical style. She started her musical career very young, trying classical guitar at age six. She smiles as she remembers early memories of following in her brother's footsteps as a guitar player. "I got influenced by all his music and then we were in a garage band together when I was about 10."

Taking lessons from famous musician Randy Rhodes (former guitarist for Ozzy Osbourne), she became engulfed in the music as her brother began to move on. What had started as a fad transformed into her life's dream. "I happened to end up really liking to play guitar." Her brother went on to become a dentist as she forged her way down a career path few women had taken.

By sixth grade, Robin was writing songs and performing not only in her band, but on occasions such as her sixth grade graduation. Along the way, she never realized she was the only girl performing until much later in life.

Looking back, she sadly acknowledges the lack of role models as a young female performer, noting that all the great guitarists were men. There were no female rock guitarists, "except

for Bonnie Raitt, but she's more blues..." She strives to change that by focusing her music on the guitar.

Aside from her instrumental expertise, Robin is an accomplished song writer. She focuses on different ways to present relationships. Keeping her music interesting, she also explores personal worth, self-image and "what's really important."

Though she is hopeful and optimistic, Robin looks downcast as she discusses the music business. "She expresses disgust at the rising popularity of shock stars such as Kid Rock and Eminem, who write songs that 'put people down.'"

She notes the music industry too often sacrifices musical ability and quality song-writing to easy money. "In this business, they talk to you like you're not even a person, you're always being judged," she sadly states. As a result, many fine musicians have turned to the indie world.

Though the indie scene is more conducive to talented hopefuls than the mainstream, it limits musicians in a variety of ways. "They think you're selling out... If you join other bands, it's like you're giving up on your own music. It's not always like that. It's hard to be a musician. You look at your friends, with a stable job, retirement and kids, and part of you wants it."

Robin has put out one CD, *Open the Door*, and is preparing another to be released in December. Her CDs may be purchased at her website, [www.janetrobin.com](http://www.janetrobin.com). Her new CD is said to showcase her increasing lyrical, vocal and instrumental talent. Though she finds it important to highlight all three of these abilities on her CD and to find a balance between them, she reiterates that the guitar is her first love and she wants to become a great rock role model for young women as Hendrix and Clapton are for young men.

### Stupid Quotes/ Useless Facts Corner

"Some reporters say I lack vision. I don't see that."

-Former President George Bush

"We have deep depth."

-Yogi Berra

"Those are my principles. If you don't like them, I have others."

-Groucho Marx

Do you have a gem you want to get published in the Stupid Quotes/Useless Facts Corner? Submit them to Oracle's Entertainment Editor via email at [joyclee@msmc.la.edu](mailto:joyclee@msmc.la.edu).

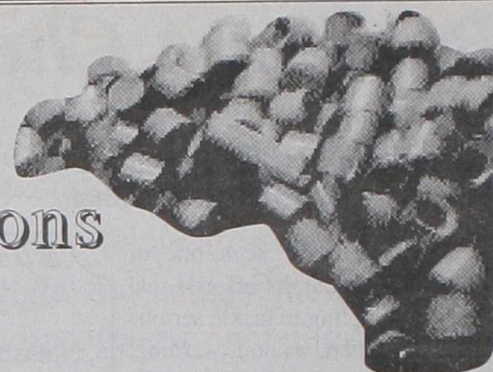


## Holocaust Trip

Forms

New Perceptions

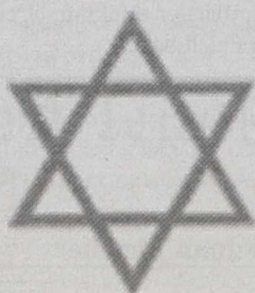
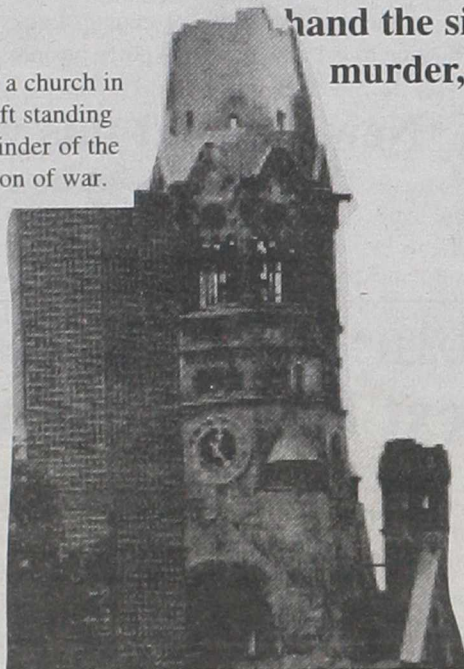
Eyes

Cans of  
poisonous  
gas

Gate at Auschwitz-Birkenau

downcast, they walked through the gates of no return. Many had passed through these gates before them. Few had walked back. Not daring to look at one another, for fear of what they might see, they passed silently and nervously, bunched together like sheep to the slaughter. Even 50 years after the horrific genocide of the Holocaust, the human heart finds it difficult to pass through the gates with no reaction. Embarking on the adventure of their lives, 21 Mount students flew to Europe last summer to study the Holocaust with History and Psychology professors, Dr. Fred Simonelli and Dr. Pamela Gist. What they found there reached far beyond the scope of imagination. Everyone has heard of it and most people can give a rough timeline or description of the events that occurred, but who can really say they know something about the Holocaust. The trifles of knowledge we dare to claim pale in comparison to what actually happened. This is what the Mount students learned. By visiting the actual places and seeing firsthand the sites that for many years were plagued with violence and murder, these students began to have a growing appreciation for the lives of the millions that perished in the sad camps.

Ruins of a church in Berlin left standing as a reminder of the destruction of war.



"When I walked out of the gate, staring at the two rows of barbed wire lining the entrance, a wave of relief came over me. I was happy to know that I could go home and be free. This led me to feel guilty for these happy emotions. It's amazing for me to believe that I am standing here while millions would probably give anything to be in my place. In a sense, I feel guilty for being. No matter what I feel, one thing is for certain, I must live for those who couldn't."

—Millicent Ongaco, fourth year student



"It was a great opportunity to go with the school. It would've been a lot harder by myself or with my family. With the group, it was more supportive. Being there firsthand helped me feel like they felt. Even though we didn't go through what they did, just being there made me imagine it. For example, when we stood in the role call square, I imagined standing there in line for hours..."

—Cristina Rivera, fourth year student

## "I Do Not Know Your Name"

I do not know your name  
And yet I feel your presence.  
I see the anguish held prisoner within the dark, brown orbs.  
The face is sullen and ashen,  
Time and age has no meaning for you now.  
A faint smile touches your lips, fading away  
as quickly as the hope you once grasped.

I do not know your name  
And yet you are familiar.  
Are you a friend I once knew?

I struggle to find a place for you in my world.  
One where the pain is washed away,  
Where people are once again your greatest ally.  
A time when the loneliness and helplessness  
are driven from your being, a light shining  
through the darkness.

I do not know your name  
And yet I know your heart.  
Your struggles will live through me.  
I will testify the things  
you endured because  
I know you cannot

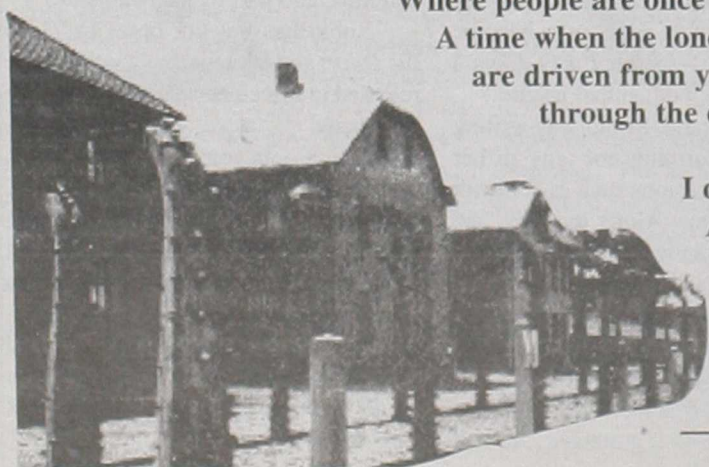
—Millicent Ongaco  
fourth year student



Lake of Ashes at Auschwitz-Birkenau

"The experience was unforgettable. The part that struck me most was the fact that I have read books on the Holocaust, seen films, and looked at photographs, but none of that came close to actually experiencing the camps. There was an overwhelming feeling of sadness and despair I felt at Treblinka and Auschwitz-Birkenau. That trip will forever be embedded in my memory and in my soul."

—Rachel Simonelli, third year student



Famous double-barbed wire fence at Auschwitz I

Monument and symbolic rock  
cemetery at Treblinka

Designed by Joan Fletcher, Layout Editor



# The

12001 Chalon Road,  
Los Angeles, CA 90049  
10 Chester Place,  
Los Angeles, CA 90007

October 27, 2000

# Oracle

Mount St. Mary's College

Volume 7, Number 2

Archives  
MSMC

## Mount Handicapped in Providing Adequate Accessibility

By Julie Ahn

Interim Editor

The trek from the parking structure stairs of the Chalon campus, to the Humanities building, is a cruel fate to all students. But to others, both permanently and temporarily handicapped, the stairs, hills, and rocky terrain are not just an early morning workout, but present potential medical impossibilities.

At MSMC, both the Chalon and Doheny campuses are struggling to respond to questions of handicap accessibility. The issue has become an area of increasing concern, evidenced by recent meetings on the topic, headed by both the Learning Center and the Admissions department. Though students on both campuses are assured by Director of learning assistance programs, Michelle Lewis, the school strives to "accommodate on a case by case basis for handicapped students," the structure of the school may lack the support necessary to provide for a significant handicapped population of students and staff.

Students with handicaps depend on not only elevators, but door frames that are wide enough to allow wheelchairs to fit in classrooms, bathrooms, and offices; the very things that are missing from essential buildings at the Mount.

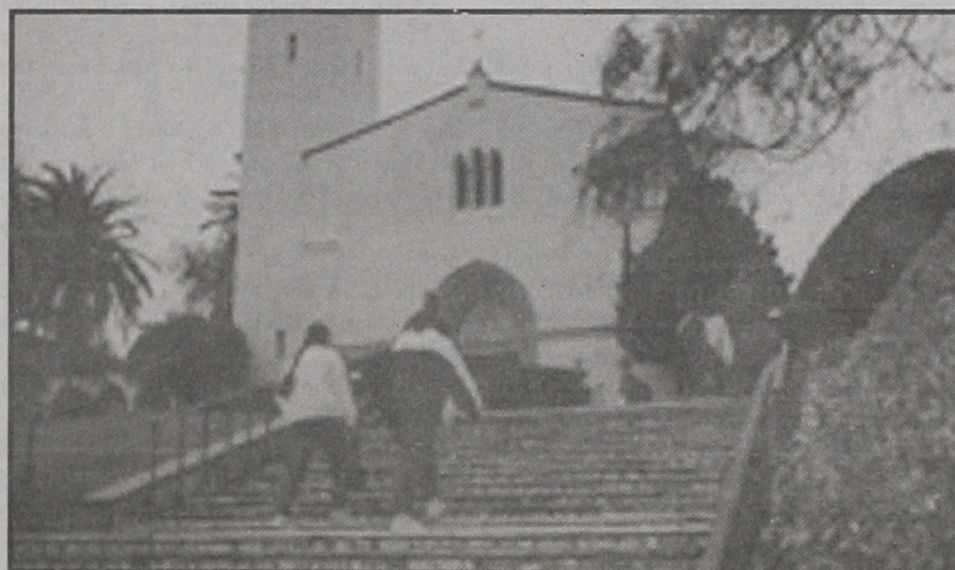
Doheny and Chalon students who face permanent handicaps, such as people life-bound to wheelchairs, or temporary handicaps, like a broken knee, or surprisingly, students or staff who are pregnant, feel the full burden of the effect in the inadequacy of handicap accommodations. Though almost all buildings at Doheny are handicap accessible, the one most significant for students, building four where classes are held,

is not.

"I'm not handicapped, but my back has some minor problems and I carry a bag on wheels to hold my books...I'm probably making my back worse by pulling it up the

added burden of their predicament.

Penny Martinez, a first year Doheny student voices her concern. "It just scares me because accidents happen...if I broke my leg and knew that there are no elevators



Oracle Archives

The stairs leading up to Chalon's Mary Chapel are just one of the sites on campus that presents difficulties for handicapped students. Lack of adequate space and funding are just two issues that hinder the Mount from improving accessibility.

stairs in Building four," comments second year Doheny student, Abby Carozza.

On Chalon, the situation may be a little more accommodating, with only Rossiter, a residence hall mostly devoted to graduate students, lacking handicap accessibility, with an absence of an elevator.

Not only are missing elevators an indication that the building is not handicap accessible, but if the buildings also lack doors wide enough for wheelchairs to fit through, it is considered not equipped for disabled students' use. These deficiencies cause handicapped students to feel the

in building four, I would be stressed thinking about classes, on top of getting better," she laments.

However, Lewis insists that the school would strive to work around any temporarily or permanently handicapped students, doing whatever necessary to continue students' education as un-impaired as possible.

"If any student was in a wheelchair and could not attend classes on the second floor of Building four, we would simply move the class to the first floor or to another building," Lewis proposes as a possible solution. So, far she admits the opportunity

to implement that alternative has never arisen. Though the effort is admirable, the underlying problem of the Mount in not being entirely handicap prepared, still remains.

Lewis herself points out buildings cited as having handicap accessibility, do not necessarily mean all offices and rooms are wheelchair prepared, indicating that some buildings labeled as handicap-ready at the Mount, still contain obstacles for handicapped students, staff, and visitors.

Bathrooms are another troublesome situation, with some door frames not allowing wheelchairs the width to fit through. The only such accessible wheelchair ready bathrooms at Doheny are on the first floor of Building four, Building 15, and the newly remodeled buildings. Also limited in wheelchair ready bathrooms is the Chalon campus, only having wheelchair accessible bathrooms in the administration building, the Coe library, and the Brady ground floor.

"If something happened and I was in a wheelchair, I would just drop out of school, if every time I had to go to the bathroom, I had to go way over across the campus to other buildings...imagine getting up in the middle of the night" laughs second year Doheny student Laura Araba.

Lewis insists that the school would make every attempt to see to it that students would have to do no such thing, pointing out the instance of a Chalon student who recently broke her ankle. "It turned out she didn't get her doctor's approval to come back, but we (Laura Lopez, director of Residence Life at Chalon, with Lewis) were ready to do anything possible for her to have a convenient bathroom close to her."

—continued on page 6—

## Father/Daughter Dance Sparks Nostalgic Emotion

By Maya Gaddie, Reporter  
and Julie Ahn, Interim Editor

Nothing could be more romantic than dancing in the arms of the man you love. With the strains of jazz playing in the background, wearing the 'perfect black dress,' adoring eyes stare back at you. The man you are dancing with is the one you have loved the first day you laid eyes on him. The man is your father.

Perhaps, for many students on campus, a father is not the typical picture for an ideal date to a dance, much less at any event at all.

However, at the upcoming father-daughter semi-formal dance, hosted by the African American Council of Women, AACW and the Associated Student Body,

ASB, this night is dedicated to bringing father and daughters together to celebrate their distinctive bond.

The date for the dance is tentative, but is scheduled as of press time, to be on Sunday, November 19th at 4pm to 8pm in the Campus Center at the Chalon.

Many students find a kick out of such a traditional, yet touching event.

"It's so sweet," exclaims second year Colleen Williams, who is planning on attending the event with her stepfather.

"My birth father pretty much bailed and my step-dad raised me...he really is who I consider my 'dad,' and I'm really looking forward to taking him to the dance, and let him know how much I appreciate all that he's done for me," she says.

Live music will be provided by the

Shelly Weeks, the sponsor of the African American Alumnae, as her quartet jazz band will jam as attendees dance the night away.

The menu will be a serve yourself buffet dinner, and a contest for the "cutest father daughter pair" will also be held. Students seem to be looking forward to such a competition.

"Everyone says that I look just like my dad. I have his crow's feet, tiny lips, and crooked nose...finally, it will pay off," laughs third year Rebecca Livstrom, who can't wait to see her friends and peers with their fathers.

Other students with less close relationships with their fathers, view this dance as the perfect opportunity to break the ice in getting closer or strengthen a weak relation-

ship.

"After I went to college, my dad saw me as a woman, not a little girl and started to feel uncomfortable and kept his distance...I hope with this event will help us to start a more mature relationship with each other," shares fourth year Lily Perrin.

Though the cost has not yet been decided for the dance, the ASB and AACW advise students to mark their calendars and look for upcoming announcements and posters about the details of the dance.

Fourth year Karis Zerana muses, "It's in the vein of debutante balls in the South and 'quince's (celebrations for a girl reaching her fifteenth birthday in the Hispanic tradition). It's just the the same kind of formal environment celebrating something beautiful: father's and daughter's."



# Mount Slow in Promise To Update Computers

By Julie Ahn

Interim Editor

Computers in residence hall labs, were promised in a April 1999 tuition forum, to be either replaced or updated, in response to students concerns that the residence hall computers were plagued with problems. During the forum, administrators, like Dr. Mari Wadsworth and Dr. Jane Lingua, expressed acknowledgement of the situation, assuring students they would be replacing them as soon as possible. However, as of press time, the residence hall labs are still occupied with the outdated computers, and students are perplexed.

"What happened to [MSMC] providing every service possible to make education a priority here," challenges Lisa Rivera, third year Mount resident. "Unless I want my papers and midterms to be eaten up and lost, I don't go to the dorm labs." Other students agree, feeling that the Mount did not make good on their assurance that computers would be fixed and replaced, as the same problems of slow computers and frozen screens hinders students at residence labs.

Dan Weiss, Director of Technology Training and Support at MSMC, clarifies the situation, explaining there were plans to update the computers over the summer, but due to budget cuts, computers, as well as the accessories for them, could not be purchased.

"If we had been able to use the original funds that were allocated for our technology budget, we would have been able to out-

fit new computers for the residence labs," says Weiss. Although Weiss does not specifically know why cuts were made to the technology budget, he speculates it might be due to departments underestimating the amount of students enrolled in campus for the 2000-01 school year. The Finance department could not be reached for comment.

"Even with budget cuts, if administration promised computers would be updated, that should be the first thing they do," says second year Reyna Baraza.

However, Lingua disputes Weiss's claim of a technology budget cut, and assures students that computers will be upgraded, though a timeline has not been set.

The situation for better computers and hardware is not at a plateau, assure both Weiss and Carol Hill, House Desk coordinator, who point to an unusual opportunity that might bring an early Christmas to the Mount.

"We were presented by the US Census Bureau with computers they had used only to tabulate their census results...they are much newer, and would cover all the labs, but we don't have final word yet," Weiss cautions, but seems to be optimistic about the possibility, evidenced by the clearing of space in the Humanities computer lab, to make room for ten, almost-new computers from the Census Bureau.

"That is really interesting...Free computers are not something anyone hears about, much less receives," enthuses second year Melanie Kryhstan.

While the college waits, students are angry with the plethora of computer problems in the residence halls, that frustrate them.

Second year Kimberley Price is angered over the amount of times the computers in the Carondelet residence lab eats her disks, losing homework and papers.

"I wonder how often the OIT (Office of Information and Technology) check the computers for viruses, because it's ridiculous how often it happens," she laments.

The OIT defends their position, saying that a computer virus detection program, Macafee checks for a virus every time the computer is re-booted or when disks are inserted. In addition, the OIT re-installs an updated version of Macafee which is released every Friday. To make sure the versions are working, they go to the labs and re-boot all the computers. Students acknowledge the presence of Macafee, but feel that personal help is always better.

"Great, the computer will fix it's own problem...it doesn't make sense, because the problem and solution come from the same place," criticizes fourth year Cristina Kim.

OIT technician Jamal Nasser defends their use of Macafee in detecting and cleaning viruses in both residence labs, and labs for all students, on both the Chalon and Doheny campuses, stating, "If Macafee can't do it, there is nothing else technicians can do." But, he does admit that there are some viruses Macafee does not detect and in such cases, lab technicians are always sent to the lab to handle problems.

The sentiment of the administrators indicate they believe students unfairly blame problems on outdated computers or the OIT staff.

"Students complain about printers and what not, but if they knew how to use the computers, they might not have a problem...they need to log in the user name and password when the computer prompts them, but most cancel out...they're not able to print if they do that," says Hill, who notices students misusing computers. Both the OIT and Hill cite improper downloading of programs, such as AOL instant messenger, ICQ, AIM messenger, and others by students, which can slow computers down significantly.

"We keep literally cleaning the computers every Friday of the stuff they download, but they keep downloading...it's redundant," sighs Nasser, who claims that students are repeatedly informed not to download anything on the computer, but due so at their own peril. Students are also not to save documents on the hard drive, which Nasser and Hill says takes up more space on the hard drive and can lead to slower computes, or crashes.

Third year Eileen Villa is skeptical about how much the problems with computers are students' fault.

"Oh please, just because some students download AOL messenger or save on the hard drive does not mean the computer should eat your disk...maybe computers will crash or be really slow, but there are some problems I don't think student's actions account for."

## THE ORACLE

### Executive Editors

Julie Ahn

Maya Gaddie

Lindsey Truman

Joan Fletcher

Interim Editor

Managing Editor

Copy Editor

Layout Editor

### Page Editors

Asilki Jones

Joycelyn Lee

Features Editor

Entertainment Editor

### Staff Reporters

Evangelina Savala

Yared Salgado

Connie Moreno

Suzi Schroeder

Tiffany Thomas

Amy Branaghan

### Advisor

Elena Barnes

### Editorial Policy

The Oracle is a non-profit publication created by the students of Mount Saint Mary's College. Letters to the Editor are strongly encouraged. All letters should be accompanied by full name and signature and may be edited for clarity and brevity. Unsigned letters will not be printed. Please direct all correspondence to The Oracle at 12001 Chalon Road, Box 52, Los Angeles, CA 90049 or via e-mail to oracle@msmc.la.edu. The telephone number is (310) 954-4083. Advertisements, commentaries, columns and political cartoons do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the paper, the college or the writer. Editorials are the opinions of the majority of the editorial staff. The Oracle welcomes articles and contributions by students, faculty, staff and alumni.

## Disney Expansion Creates Job for Students

By Joan Fletcher

Layout Editor

Are you missing the magic and fun in your semester? Do the hopes for a better time in the spring seem dim? Disney has just the answer for you!

Not only is the now-expanding resort the "happiest place on earth," but it is also the "happiest place to work" and you're here at just the right time. The Disney Resort in Anaheim is now undergoing the largest expansion in its 45-year history, opening up over 7,000 new jobs perfect for college students.

Disney has a history of pleasing its guest. In its recent expansion, an increased emphasis has been placed on pleasing its cast members as well. Their superior benefits and college-friendly scheduling are well-known, but Disney felt the process could be improved.

Replacing the lengthy, frightful experience of job application is a simple process that takes little more than a couple of hours. It all starts with the Disney Jobline (1-800-766-0888).

A simple phone call, in either English or Spanish, can help you determine if Disney has the job you are looking for. The jobline includes features such as information about

working at Disney and available appointment times to meet with recruiters.

The next step would be your appointment with recruiters at the casting center. Within the few hours of application process, you see a video, talk to recruiters and fill out paperwork. By the time you leave the center, you know if you have the job. This process was changed to be simpler, easier and quicker in order to help take some of the stress out of the application process.

Disney representatives stress the need for highly motivated applicants who are "guest service oriented."

"Anyone can built it. But if you don't have the right people to welcome guests, it might as well just be a hole in the ground," one Disney representative reflected, looking upon the ever-progressing construction of the resort's latest addition, California Adventure (please see article "Mickey Brings Disney Magic to California" on page 7 for more information).

With openings in everything from food operations to security to hotel operations to attractions, Disney is hoping to entice area college students to join the team. They stress opportunities for upward mobility within the company as just one of the incentives to join.

Disney also encourages college

students to participate in their summer college program. Students do internships or projects within their field of interest. Projects have included things from measuring ride or monorail utilization to marketing studies.

The three components of working, learning and living are emphasized in the Summer College Program. Students work in an hourly Cast member positions for twelve weeks while participating in "learning" opportunities.

They have a "schedule of educational and cultural opportunities designed to expose them to the business of the Resort, company culture and Southern California," according to a Disney press release.

The living component requires students to share a room with three other students to "enrich their experience by exposing them to students from other areas and backgrounds."

Also available are more advanced programs, such as the Summer Associate Program and internships. More information on the summer programs can be obtained at the college program website, [www.DisneyCollege.com](http://www.DisneyCollege.com).

With so many openings for local students, Disney jobs seem like a "magical" opportunity. Don't miss out.



# Eminem's Message? Kids Need to Come with a Parental Advisory Sticker Too

By Julie Ahn

Interim Editor

Some parents are really stupid. Scratch that. They're moronic. If parents and "authority figures" really think their kids are committing violence because of a song or tv show, they also believed it when their kid said they didn't eat the cookies out of the cookie jar, while crumbs are dropping out of their pockets. But, it's not a matter of chocolate chip cookies anymore. Children are grown, and now the cookie jar has become the safe with a gun in it. Is up to the parents and educators to teach kids the difference between fantasy and reality, good and bad, or is it Eminem's job?

Kids who are too scared to tell their mommy's and daddy's they did something foolish, maybe even illegal, know it's popular and accepted to use artists like Eminem, Oliver Stone movies, and the late Tupac Shakur, as scapegoats. "They made me do it," they cry. What does mommy do? She looks at her angel, and decides they're right. The children, teenagers, and even adults are never to blame, it's the celebrities and artists in society who plant their vulgar and violent ideas into their minds, forcing them to commit crimes. For everyone, it seems so much easier to look for blame outside of themselves. Lately, that someone else is the infamous Eminem.

Wait a second. I don't think Eminem is a saint by any means. He's an angry white male who can sometimes cross careful lines with his inflammatory lyrics. Though he raps on dark images of murder, incest, and rage, they are simply words created through

the reality of life. Constantly mocking President Clinton's affair with Monica to the recent rash of school shootings, he makes the valid point that he isn't creating violence and sickness in life, he is taking the reality of it, and making an artistic statement. It is not Eminem who rushes into Columbine with cheap homemade grenades, nor is it Eminem who was in the Oval Office having sexual playtime with a cigar and the most powerful leader of the free nation. That is reality. Everyone connects Eminem as the cause and violence as the effect, but let's juxtapose that association? Perhaps violence is the cause and artists like Eminem, who want to make statements on reality, are the effect.

It's just too easy for society and media to look at Eminem, wring their hands, and have massive coronaries, wondering how they can get him to stop that "bad rap music". No one sees the media is profiting both financially, and in reputation by their pronouncement of Eminem as the cause to society's ills. If they think Eminem is responsible for violence, why splash him on so many magazine covers and news stories? Why give him so much publicity? Why shower him with attention? It sells, that's why. The media knows parents and figures of authority hate to blame themselves. Pointing the finger at the easiest scapegoat relieves them of their responsibility in violent tragedies. Like Eminem himself asks, "Where are the parents at? Taking their kids to Schwarzenegger movies where he's shooting all sorts of these motherf\*ckers with an Uzi." Word, Eminem.

Parents somehow view Ah-nuld grip-

ping a machine gun in his pumped arms as "cool," but let Eminem write music in his skinny white arms decorated with tattoos, and we have a real killer. It's sheer ignorance.

What's really a tragedy is that people can't see beyond the f\*cks, sh\*t's, and b\*tches of Eminem's music. If they would, I think they'd be mighty surprised, for Eminem has a gift to get to the truth of a matter. After the tragic school shooting at Columbine, Eminem mocked the media's almost overwhelming coverage of the event. He challenges, "Now it's a tragedy...an upperclass city having this happen."

I'm not belittling Columbine, it was one of the most horrifying things that I've seen televised. Now, notice I say televised, because like Eminem pointed out, these school shootings have been occurring around the United States in poorer urban areas that have simply not been giving the attention and concern Columbine garnered. Where was the promise of the Hal Fishman or Paul Moyer to provide "further updates?" Nowhere, because they probably were too busy covering some "major incident at a local zoo". Awww, the monkeys gave birth again.

Eminem also senses the reality of a sick society obsessed with celebrity. He flatly states that he is tired of being admired. Most of his lyrics and songs play on how society makes it his fault that disturbed people don't know how to separate fiction from reality.

In "Stan," a track from Eminem's most recent CD, *The Real Slim Shady*, Stan is a

mentally disturbed man who writes Eminem letters about how he "relates" to his music, cuts himself because Eminem does, and pleads with Eminem to "be with" him. Eventually, Stan drives off a bridge with his pregnant girlfriend in the trunk. As the sounds of her shrill screams fill the song, the car splashes into a lake and then silence, as both die. It's a song that made me wince. Not only because of the nightmarish visions and noises of the song, but because Stan's loneliness was so deep, he looked for a celebrity to help him.

Society should pay attention to what Eminem is saying. He isn't condoning kidnapping your lover and committing double suicide, he's saying, there's a deeper problem with our society if people can only share their anguish with a celebrity. Why did Stan have no one else to turn to? Why didn't Stan learn somewhere along the line to take distinguish fantasy from fiction. And most importantly, when did it become the responsibility of celebrities to take on the job of parents, friends, and counselors?

If kids really do something because of a song or a scene in a movie, why do parents blame the entertainment industry, when there are so many other teens and adults that only let the movie affect them, long enough to create a small pause in putting their hand into the popcorn and back up to their mouths. If someone is so deluded as to let entertainment cloud rationale, perhaps it's just the result of a child that truly needed counseling, or a parent and system that didn't teach. Let the cookie crumble, and let's notice where the chips, chocolate or otherwise, really fall.

## UJ Residents Enjoy Benefits of Both Worlds

By Yared Saldago

Reporter

Believe it or not, students at MSMC are living the oxymoron of being both a resident and a commuter. This year, 34 students live as residents at the University of Judaism (UJ) and yet commute to the Mount daily. Their campus is known for its beautiful scenery, free parking, and air-conditioned and spacious rooms.

Due to an increasing number of students who wish to be residents, the Mount was forced to contract housing with UJ last year. Though this is the second year Mount students have lived at UJ, this is the first year the contract has been coordinated by Residence Life, from both the Mount, under Laura Lopez, and UJ, under Joseph Martinez.

The rooms at UJ are large doubles featuring private bathrooms, air conditioners, heaters, and carpeted rooms, cable, and a feature phone system. Norma Gallegos, Chalon student, mentions, "Students down at UJ seem to be missing out on the advantages that we have here." However, unless students think having cable heating, and bigger rooms, are a disadvantage, the opposite may be true.

Transportation is one major concern for UJ students. Shuttles are available, which go between Chalon and UJ about ten times a day. On weekends, the Stop Trans shuttle from Chalon stops at UJ, as well as UCLA, Westwood, and Santa Monica. For those students lucky enough to drive, there is free parking for UJ students.

Life at UJ, is influenced by the Jewish cul-

ture, just as the Mount is affected by its Catholic heritage. Many customs are practiced, including a "silent day" in the cafeteria on Friday evening to observe the Sabbath. According to Jewish culture, the Sabbath begins at sundown, as the scripture says, "World began in darkness and God said, 'Let there be light.'"

Another custom involves the way food is served and eaten. Meat and dairy products are not to be eaten together. As a result, if you are eating a dairy meal at UJ, you cannot have meat as well. Food is also prepared more carefully, ensuring it is Kosher.

UJ residents, such as Sonia Jara, enjoy the new traditions and the exposure to a new culture. Nevertheless, UJ makes considerations for the residents, knowing that many are not Jewish, and often make special arrangements for them. There are also kitchenettes (for Kosher food only) that students are allowed to use.

Some students believe that the food at UJ is far superior to Mount cuisine.

"The food at UJ is better because it is healthier," says Maya Gaddie, UJ resident.

"I feel that the cafeteria staff treats students like real people. They always tend to meet your needs so that you're satisfied," comments another UJ resident, Joanna Martinez.

Commenting on the always-positive atmosphere at UJ as well as the Mount, Irasema Marroquin says, "You feel a friendly environment all around you. I feel that it is a chance to experience something new in your life."

## Sweaty palms and pits: Problem Solved!

I always feel awkward introducing myself. Whenever some well intentioned professor makes students get up in class so we can "tell us your name (Julie Ahn), your major (Psychology), and 'something interesting,' (I'm addicted to Hitchcock movies and Gorditas at Taco Bell) instantly my palms sweat.

I didn't know why it was that I practically achieved anxiety attack status before a simple five-second stand up-sit down introduction, but being a psychology major, I think I now know (thank you Dr. Dean and Dr. Mabry)! I like to be the best. I'm the worst at public speaking, but writing? The best. So, now finally it is my turn to introduce myself in a way that I can shine, so here goes.

My name is Julie Ahn, and I'm your new Interim Editor. The first day I met the prior editor in chief, the incredible Joan Fletcher, I panicked when suddenly she told me to write an article. I barely knew what one was. Her advice? "Don't worry." I'm in trouble, I thought to myself. But, it was fine, more than fine.

After timidly gathering quotes and information, my hands moved like I was Woodward and Bernstein on Speed, okay maybe not that good—or bad. Best of all, I love it. I love the power of words.

That's why I'm editor now. I want the Oracle to change our school for the better. I want people to think. I want

students to react.

The only way is through our staff. I'm a bundle of nerves, and they always know how to soothe me. They provide sanity for me, and I give them my insanity! It's inspiring to see them overcome the "apathy" stereotype of Mount students, and strive to make changes. I'm proud to be working with them.

We can't do it on our own. Even with the greatest staffers and editors, we need someone to read us! We want you, students and faculty, to respond. Let us know what you think. The paper is the reflection of the school, not just a group of sleep-deprived writers. Talk to us.

So, what's new for the upcoming issues? Well, as you saw with the last issue, our banner has changed to the clean lines of the current issue. Also, we're bringing back horoscopes. Our resident astrologist, Amy McGranaham is so good, it's spooky. We're adding a letters to the editor section (when, not if, we get some) and printing chosen ones. No, they won't all be positive! If anyone, has any advice for future articles, thoughts about the school, anything; we'll listen.

I think I've used up my five minutes, and guess what? My shirt doesn't have pit stains, after that mini "speech." I think I really have a knack for this. Either that, or I bought a better deodorant.

Interim Editor-in-Chief





Ete Anderson, Mount staff, and Veronica Martinez, class of 2000 alumni, stand in line for the procession.

"It was an amazing day. It was incredible to see all the alumni's from years past, and made me think how one day I can look back at everything I've experienced at the Mount as part of my past, when now it's still so much my present."

Jennifer Merrick,  
fourth year student

# The Grand Inauguration of Dr. Jacqueline

## Celebration of Mount Past and Future

By Angelique Helig

Reporter

Last Friday, October 13, was a momentous day for the Mount. It was on this day that MSMC received the 11th president of the college. A remarkable ceremony was held to honor the new president, Dr. Jacqueline Powers Doud.

There was an astounding academic procession from Mount students of the last 65 years, moving speeches, and costumes and decorations sprinkled the campus. The Mount warmly received Dr. Doud with singing and greetings to formally welcome the beginning of not only a new president, but a new era of the first lay president of the Mount.

Speeches on Dr. Doud's behalf were spoken, including a moving poem read by Dr. Robert Doud, Dr. Doud's husband. Finally, it was Dr. Doud's turn herself to share with the Mount community and distinguished guests, her vision for the school.

Not only did she talk about her future view for the college, but she also shared a little about the history of the Mount.

Through her speech, the guests learned that the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Carondelet struggled from Le Puy, France

to come to Los Angeles, California. She gave knowledge of the past, and with her presence, hope for the future.

When the ceremony was completed, everyone was invited to the inauguration luncheon. In honor of the French roots of the school, founders, and the Dr. Doud's academic history, the menu featured French cuisine.

Guests mingled with each other, enjoying their food in not only the usual student cafeteria, but the faculty cafeteria, Carousel room, and even the second floor Humanities building, which was magically transformed into a Parisian restaurant!

The guests ranged from Mount students to delegates and presidents of colleges and universities stretching from the East to West coast. Alumni's from 1935 on, also presented their experiences of how the Mount shaped their lives thus far.

The day was historic for not only celebrating both Mount students at present, as well as a past influenced by MSMC education, but also reminding everyone about the future for all students and staff on campus to appreciate and take advantage of the rising days ahead.



Guests are attentive to inauguration's speakers.

"To tell the truth, I didn't think students would come to the Inauguration, but they really did. I was proud that my friends and other students cared enough to see something I consider historic for our college's history."

Evelyn Sloan,  
second year student



Last minute preparations are under way for the ceremony.

All Photos by Angelique  
Helig, The Oracle



# ne Powers Doud



Mr. Robert M. Cote, husband of 1982 alumni, Julia Cote, feeds his hungry daughter – perhaps a future student at the Mount.



ay before the Inauguration cer-

“People say our school has no school spirit, but this barbecue shows everyone how much potential the Mount has to get together.”

Carmen Rovasca,  
third year student



A group of alumni from 1936 – 1939, wait in line. From left to right: Margaret Moran, 1939; Joyce Milward Caplis, 1938; Maria Mankiewicz, 1936; and Rosetta Malon Martin, 1937.

“I’ve never seen the campus look more beautiful. It was the perfect day to introduce Dr. Doud as the new president of our school. I feel great things ahead for us at MSMC.”

Debra Simmons,  
second year student

## President, Students Bond at Barbeque

By Consuelo Moreno

Reporter

On the eve of Dr. Doud’s inauguration as the Mount’s eleventh president, a celebratory Barbeque was held at the historic Doheny campus of Mount St. Mary’s college. The event was especially geared toward students. Dr. Doud herself remarked about the barbeque’s mission to introduce herself to not only administration, but students as well.

“A lot of the times, these inaugurations go by and students don’t even notice it. I really wanted to get the students involved,” she said.

That, they did. Every club and organization at the Mount attended the event to congratulate Dr. Doud and present her with a unique gift. The diversity at the Mount made its presence known in every aspect.

The multi-cultural gifts reflected the Mount as the Pangkat Philipino performed a cultural dance for Dr. Doud, the Hawaiian club gave Dr. Doud a wreath of flowers and a lei, the Black Student Union gave her two beautiful African dolls, and the girls from Voces Latinas offered a speech of congratulations in Spanish, as well as a brightly colored candle holder.

To round off the celebration, the Doheny Resident Assistants adapted the Mickey Mouse Club song with Dr. Doud’s name and sang it to the sincere enjoyment of the crowd. A pleased Dr. Doud offered her thanks and deep appreciation to all the clubs and organi-

zations.

Not only were momentos of welcome bestowed upon Dr. Doud, but the music and food were what made the barbecue just that. Brenda Gamez, director of the ISAE program at the Chalon campus, was very satisfied with the turnout and results of the event.

“The music is great, and I’m thrilled that it’s so student oriented,” she enthused.

Students also enjoyed meeting the new president, as well as taking a part in a school wide friendly event.

“People say our school has no school spirit, but this barbecue shows everyone how much potential the Mount has to get together,” said third year Chalon student Carmen Rovasca.

The attendants savored an extensive menu of hamburgers, barbecued chicken, salad, and macaroni and cheese, potato salad, and various other delicacies. Everyone seemed to welcome a respite from the cafeteria food.

“All I can is yummy,” exclaimed fourth year Chalon student, Lisa Tran, summarizing the sentiments of almost everyone at the barbecue that whetted their appetites.

The evening came to a close with a short speech from Dr. Doud. She congratulated the student body, as well as the faculty and staff for a memorable evening.

Claudia Almanza, student representative for the inauguration committee was thrilled with the results of the event. “It’s more than I expected,” Almanza smiles.



# Mount Handicapped In Accessibility

continued from page 1

## Suzi's World: Superstitions

By Suzi Schroeder

Reporter

Black cats, crossed fingers, and rabbits' feet—for a society that doesn't consider itself superstitious, we sure have a lot of superstitions. When asked if Americans are superstitious, most people scoff, but they still make sure they're wearing their lucky underwear before a big test.

Superstitions are everywhere in our society—on the playgrounds, where children try not to step on cracks; in homes, where broken mirrors are bad luck; and even on the football field, where players can't win without their pre-game rituals.

This last one really hits home for me, as my brother is a football jock and can't play a game without wearing his "lucky" blue boxer-briefs. They are so disgustingly worn that my mother threatens to throw them away each week. Some other friends of his have elaborate rituals for games, or absolutely need to have their girlfriends in the stands wearing the purple shirts they wore the last game they won, and holding the first stuffed bear they ever gave them.

Whereas I personally think the lucky socks, shirts, and underwear are an elaborate ploy so men don't have to do laundry, superstitions go beyond men and football.

I knew musicians that couldn't perform without their lucky knickknack sitting on their music stand. At dance competitions, I know dancers that are convinced they will only get their groove on if their competition number is odd, and odd only. I wonder, if they get even, do they just purse their lips and go home crying?

With Halloween approaching as rapidly as a witch on a broomstick, superstitions only get worse. Halloween reminds us that we should beware of black cats, werewolves, and full moons.

It's also the time when parents scour their children's candy for poison and razor blades in caramel and apples—another popular urban legend. Even though this razor blade in candy makes news headlines from tabloids to "respectable" news organizations, there have been very few reported cases. Yet we still have the fear that it could happen.

Another day of superstitious nature also just passed. If you're reading this, you're still alive or functioning relatively normal, which means you have escaped yet another superstition unscathed, Friday the 13th, where unlucky things happen to unlucky people. The strangest thing that happened to me that day has always been scary, though: getting stuck in LA traffic (the ultimate nightmare), but that is still relatively mundane.

The internet is a breeding ground for urban legends that make about as much sense as the movie, *Urban Legends*. If I listened to all of them, the most prevalent one out there now being that deodorant gives you cancer, I don't even think I could wake up each morning.

Personally, I'm immune to superstition. Now I hope you'll excuse me, I have to go wash my lucky socks, find my lucky headband, and eat a lucky bagel before my dance competition tomorrow. Oh, did I say I was immune...

Though it seems that the Mount may be suffering a lack of consideration for all potential and present disabled students, they are not burdened legally by the absence of handicap preparedness. Lewis emphasizes that both campuses are legally protected because the buildings for both campuses, were built before disability codes were established. However, the newer buildings and restorations are remodeled with handicap accessibility as an essential consideration.

Students at Chalon and Doheny, with handicap placards, park in disabled parking spots to make the walk to classes more comfortable for them. With the 9 disabled parking spots at Chalon in the circle, and the 8 at Doheny inside the campus, students generally feel the small number of disabled parking is more than enough, given the modest size of the student population.

"We're a small school, so it makes sense that there's be only a few parking spaces set aside for handicapped people," says Lisa Nerhana, fourth year student at Chalon, adding, "I never see them filled anyways."

Nerhana is right on that point. Both campuses, according to Lewis and Shannon Swank, admissions manager, have no students that are permanently handicapped. Although the school has a small population, the zero percentage rate of disabled students seems unusual.

The absence of all handicapped students at MSMC is explained by some students, as well as staff, by the corresponding absence of complete handicapped services offered at the college.

Lewis admits, "It's a turn-off for handicapped students...they are probably self-eliminating when they see the campus, even if we were doing what we need to do for them [handicap students], it would be a challenge anyways with the hills at Chalon."

By her own admission, the Mount may not be pro-actively seeking to make improvements for handicap students, instead adopting a "wait and see" attitude before undertaking all reforms.

However Vice President of Student

Affairs, Dr. Jane Lingua disagrees that the Mount is not acting on the issue, pointing out that changes have been made in the last five to ten years for handicap accessibility.

"There is not any building that handi-

capped stu-

dents can not

get into...all

new build-

ings are

handicap

accessible as

well," but

Lingua points

out that not

all offices

and rooms in

the buildings are accessible.

She still insists the college has made a concerted effort to update the campus, but it remains that some areas of the campus are not as handicap accessible as they could be, though Lingua notes that the school is constantly moving forwards in renovations with plans to make handicap access a priority.

A glaring lack of provision for handicapped students is most evident with the shuttle vans that take students to and from Doheny and Chalon campus, University of Judaism, where some students dorm, and various other locations.

"We have no accommodations for the shuttles in terms of students in wheelchairs being able to ride the vans," says Head of shuttle services, Carlos Guzman. Though both Guzman and Lewis admit the wheelchair readiness of the vans are a problem, they also express the stance that it makes more sense to wait for students to come to campus who are handicapped and need shuttle services, before purchasing a wheelchair-ready shuttle van, though Lewis admits handicapped students might be hesitant to attend a college without such services.

"It's more fiscally sound to wait...If we buy a wheelchair-accessible van, in the next 6 years, we may not use it, and will have invested an extra \$10,000 we could have spend on something else," Lewis says, defending the Mount's non-action with handicap shuttle vans, adding that "It

has not been issue since I've been here."

Lingua explains the decision as a matter of prioritizing, feeling that it is best to provide for the most general and necessary first, then handle the specifics later.

**"It's a turn off for handicapped students...they are probably self-eliminating when they see the campus."**

—Michelle Lewis, Director of Learning Assistance Programs, on the absence of handicapped students at the Mount.

Though the school realizes handicapped students may choose other colleges with better services for them, Swank addresses the pragmatic

issue that it may be more realistic that some handicap students carefully consider if MSMC could accommodate them, "Counselors should make sure this is the right place for those students...short of turning the campus upside down, there's not much we can do"

Third year Chalon student Sylvia Highsmith opposes, what she feels, is sluggishness on the part of the school in making changes, noting the Mount's lack of handicap preparedness signals to potential handicapped students that the Mount does not welcome them. Highsmith thinks the school should "turn [itself] upside down," if necessary.

"If the school keeps waiting for a reason to do something, students who are handicapped naturally think that school doesn't want them," Highsmith says. "If they [MSMC] are not up to date, students will assume that the school is like that in every other part of the school, even academically...Everything the Mount does or doesn't do is reflected to all other areas," argues Highsmith.

Both Lingua and Lewis emphasize the school provides for every student, and are always ready to do whatever it takes for incoming handicapped students as well.

Fourth year Lisa Pham comments, "It's a catch-22...the Mount is waiting for handicapped students, and handicapped students are waiting for the Mount."

Comments are welcome at [julie\\_ahn@hotmail.com](mailto:julie_ahn@hotmail.com).

## Week Set Aside to Showcase School Spirit

By Amy McGranaham

Reporter

What a school! Though small, lacking the male persuasion, and being a bit isolated from "civilization," this educational institution embodies such a wide array of opportunities and spirit that it makes up for all else—well, maybe not the absence of men!

In celebration of the Mount, the ASB has dedicated this week as Spirit Week. Monday was Pajama Wearing Day, to celebrate the "warm, comfy atmosphere" at the Mount. Tuesday, students were encouraged to show their pride in school colors, wearing purple and gold. Go Athenians! Wednesday was Logo Day, in order to

remember Mount history. Clash day, on Thursday, was meant to acknowledge our diversity.

Finally, Friday is Generations day,

**"We want everyone on campus to get involved and break the constant stereotypes that students here are apathetic."**

—Mariza Vergara, second year student

which recognizes everyone's personal history. This day is split up between the classes, with Freshmen representing the 50s, Sophomores the 60s, Juniors the 70s, and Seniors taking the 80s.

ASB Vice President Mariza Vergara notes the importance of the event, "We're trying to promote school unity and spirit," she says, reminding students to take advantage of the school-provided opportunity to express school spirit, gratitude, and happiness that midterms, for most students, are over.

"We want for everyone on campus to get involved and break the constant stereotype that students here are apathetic or 'don't care,' we do and we should participate to show it," says Vergara.

The ASB also stresses that the mission of the Spirit Days are not to promote conformity, but are merely organized guides so that students can express the unity of the college.



## Dancer in the Dark dances into your soul

By Joycelyn Lee

Entertainment Editor

Some movies you can just walk out of, expecting to forget about the movie within the hour. Let it be known that "Dancer" is not one of those films.

It's heavy subject matter is juxtapositioned with flashy and bitter-sweet song and dance numbers performed by acting novice Bjork, better known as the Icelandic musician.

Bjork plays Selma, a Czech emigrant who works for meager wages at a metal stamping plant in the 1960's south. She lives in a trailer on the property of a local policeman, Bill, and his WASP-y, materialistic wife, Linda.

The weary Selma dreams of a life of bliss, especially in terms of her 12 year old son, Gene's future. She's saving up for a costly eye operation for Gene that will be his gift from her once he turns 13. Despite her destitute circumstances,

Selma has plenty of joie du vivre in her life.

Selma is looking forward to playing the lead role of Maria in The Sound of Music, and has a shy but persistent admirer named Jim. She also makes a best friend out of Kathy (Catherine Deneuve) and with every "clinking" and "clanking" the machines at the factory produce, she is sent into elaborate daydreams of dancing and singing.

**Tagline: "You don't need eyes to see"**

**Running Time: 140 minutes**

**Players: Bjork, Catherine Deneuve, David Morse, Joel Grey**

**MPAA Rating: R**

**Movie Goer's Rating \* \* \* \***

For Selma, music represents a retreat from life that, if viewed, starkly, would be unbearable. Many immigrants arriving in this country find that the harsh reality does not match the gauzy dream.

Nevertheless, even in the face of this hard truth, Selma remains irrespressible.

The fantasy elements -- presented here as lavishly produced production numbers -- offers a means of escape.

Even after her vision is gone and her life is in tatters, Selma still has her music to hold onto.

Bill and Selma become close friends, and one night when the two swap secrets in Selma's trailer, fatal consequences ensue for all parties involved.

The film highlights how unjust and harsh the "system" is when dealing with less influential persons, and just how much it takes to push someone over the edge.

Disclaimer: I don't recommend this film for those who get motion sickness easily. The director uses a very unsteady handheld camera and uses frequent pans during conversation.

## Mickey Brings Disney Magic to California

By Joan Fletcher

Layout Editor

Beautiful people mix with rugged adventurers to create a unique culture in California. In the heartland lies the fulfillment of the dream of one man that ignites the creativity of all who venture into his dreamland. Disneyland, for 45 years, has been the symbol of magic. In 2001, that magic will expand and grow to include visions of California.

Disney's California Adventure, opening February 8, 2001, is meant to embody the adventure of the California dream. Featuring three themed areas, "Paradise Pier," "Hollywood Pictures Backlot," and "The Golden State," California Adventure is meant to resemble a "living, breathing" 3-D postcard which gives a view of mainstream Californian life.

Paradise Pier celebrates California's beach culture. It features attractions and rides reminiscent of Santa Monica or Santa Cruz amusement park piers. Disney is ever witty in presentation as well as in names, with attractions from the Orange Stinger (a

swing ride on bees rather than swings) to Muholland Madness (a classic roller coaster whizzing around in "cars").

The Golden State showcases the state's adventurous side, with attractions such as the Grizzly River Run (a rafting adventure) and the Redwood Creek Challenge Trail. Other places of interest in this area would be Condor Flats, a movie experience that appeals to all five senses, and the Bountiful Valley Farm, which includes Californian agricultural products, a TV rendition of vineyards according to season and a tractor farm.

Hollywood Pictures Backlot represents the grand facade of the movie city, complete with "unfinished" buildings resembling movie sets. One main feature of this area is a "limo ride" spoof on celebrity life that virtually takes you around Beverly Hills and Wilshire, passing Hollywood landmarks...with a twist (the Viper Room becomes the Snake Room).

Reflecting on the changes and additions at Disneyland, the words of the great Walt Disney himself come to mind: "Disneyland will never be complete as long as there is imagination left in the world."

### Stupid Quotes/ Useless Facts Corner

"Airplane travel is nature's way of making you look like your passport photo."

—Al Gore, U.S. Vice President

"If I had big boobs, no one would say I was anorexic."

—Actress Lara Flynn Boyle, on rumors of having an eating disorder

"I haven't had sex in eight months. To be honest, I now prefer to go bowling."

—Lil' Kim

George W. Bush's Spanish motto "Juntos podemos!" (Together we can) was misprinted in a Houston newspaper. The new motto? "Juntos pedemos!" (Together we fart).

Do you have a gem you want to get published in the Stupid Quotes/Useless Facts Corner? Submit them to Oracle's Entertainment Editor via email at [joyclee@msmc.la.edu](mailto:joyclee@msmc.la.edu).

### Now Playing! ...at a theatre near you

**Girlfight:** A "girl Rocky" this is not. Michelle Rodriguez stars in this coming-of-age film about a troubled, angry Latina teen who learns life's important lessons through her first love: boxing.

**The Ladies' Man:** Tim Meadow's SNL character, Leon, a low-rent seducer reminiscent of those soulful makeout men from the 1970s dishes cheezy unscientific advice on matters concerning sex and love on his late-night radio call-in program.

**Bamboozled:** Ever-controversial Spike Lee directs this satire about racist stereotypical depictions of blacks in American media (TV and film) and the different cultural attitudes regarding what it means to be "black."

**Meet the Parents:** Ben Stiller tries to impress his soon-to-be in-laws in this comedy.

**Bedazzled:** Liz Hurley plays a sexy Satan who grants geeky Brendan Fraser seven wishes in exchange for his soul.

**Pay It Forward:** Do I smell an Oscar reunion? Haley Joel Osment, Kevin Spacey, and Helen Hunt star in a film about a young boy's attempt to make the world a better place.

## SCENE & HEARD:

### Top in Entertainment News

Compiled by Joycelyn Lee

Entertainment Editor

#### TWEENY BOPPERS

Fourteen year olds Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen are starting their own "tween" magazine, to be titled "Teen Pod People." It will feature advice about "fashion, music, movies, sports, yoga, and even boys." Wow! At least the lineup didn't include that annoying brat from Full House.

#### BEATLES ANTHOLOGY

The Fab Four tell their own story in this deluxe coffee-table book. All you need is love and, um 60 bucks. (Translation: Casual fans can skip it, for Beatlemaniacs, it's a must.)

#### TEARIN' UP HIS HEART

The mother of a Tennessee teenager has thwarted her son's plot to gun down mega-selling boy band, 'N Sync. The 17 year old boy's mother alerted police after she found a detailed plan in his room labeled "Operation Death Strike," which involved ambushing them at their Oct 21 concert in Atlanta. His alleged motive? "The group gets all the good girls," said one detective.

#### WAITING TIME

Author J.K. Rowling says the next book in the Harry Potter series will be out "within" 2 years. The fifth of the planned 7 books, she says, is "not too far along...It will be ready when it's ready." Hmm, could this Muggle be any more secretive?

#### DOT COMS

Sting didn't win his case for ownership of the Web domain [www.sting.com](http://www.sting.com), but Madonna won her fight for [www.madonna.com](http://www.madonna.com) this past week. Is the United Nations World Intellectual Property Organization playing favorites? No, it's that they feel Sting (formerly Gordon Sumner) doesn't own it in every setting. Madonna, on the other hand, is the best-known Madonna in the world, according to her publicists. Just don't tell that to the Pope.

#### MOTHERHOOD MATRIX

Jada Pinkett Smith is talking to Warner Bros. about appearing in the second and third installments of THE MATRIX. Jada's pregnant with her hubby Will Smith's second child, and currently stars in Spike Lee's controversial race-relation/media satire BAMBOOZLED.

#### BOOKS

Posh Spice (a.k.a. Victoria Beckham) closed a \$1.5 million deal with Penguin for her memoirs—a record amount for a British celeb.

#### REEL SCENES

Angelina Jolie's upcoming flick "Tomb Raider" will feature scenes filmed at Cambodia's ancient Angkor Wat temple. The layrinthe complex -- known for its mind blowing delicate carvings and nearby deadly landmines -- has not been captured on film in major production since 1964's "Lord Jim."

sources: EW, People, L.A. Times



# Who is the Mount Voting For in the 2000 Elections?

**Political awareness is one of the first signs of an educated society. In a recent *Oracle* poll, Mount students were asked their opinions on the upcoming elections, presidential candidates and issues. The poll revealed a tendency toward mainstream candidates such as Gore, Bush and Nader, with an overwhelming majority supporting Gore. Reasons given varied from issues of morality to governmental involvement.**

"Gore. I want to keep women's rights within our domain. I don't want government deciding if I can have an abortion or not."

—Tammy Sloane,  
fourth year student

"Gore. I think he has a solid family background that I like and he seems down-to-earth. Actually, I wish Clinton could run again."

—Heidi Merkin,  
second year student

"Bush for President! I think he's personable and has more leadership qualities than Gore. Even though he lacks the experience and knowledge, he carries himself like a leader."

—Allison Legrasa,  
third year student

"I'm voting for Nader. I believe what Nader believes in, like getting big business out of government, getting rid of the death penalty, and being pro-citizen, not pro-corporation. America's not just a two party system and people shouldn't just have to choose between the lesser of two evils."

—Amanda Prince,  
fourth year student

"Gore. I subscribe to the Democrats' social agenda. Democrats are more concerned with the needs of the poor."

—Fr. George O'Brien,  
English Chair

"Bush is the man I'm voting for. He has the presence and the energy to stand up for true American values. Gore doesn't have what it takes to be president."

—Helena Savaren,  
first year student

## Candidates Say What People Want to Hear

In last Tuesday's debate between Gore and Bush, much of the Latino community in Los Angeles was disappointed in what they heard. The presidential candidates made promises and commitments to help make minorities' lives better, but for many, it seems to be just smoke and mirrors.

During the past electoral years, commercials and advertising campaigns provided facades of multiculturalism in the candidate's platform, as if showing a few hispanics and asians in an ad would convince viewers the candidate was truly immersed in that culture.

"They promise people what they want to hear," says Mario Garcia, a resident of Los Angeles.

Latinos in the community are disgusted. Ads during the campaign portray the nominees caring for Latino's, shaking hands and eating Mexican meals, and promising to made head-

way in issues, such as immigration, employment status, and other such "minority issues."

Recently Gore has been under fire for playing to the African American vote, though when he wasn't scraping for the few extra votes that might make a difference, no agendas or connections were made. The nominees know how to play to the minority ideal of the American dream. Planting the presidential nominee's shiny face in cultural gatherings or groups entices people who see the presidential hopeful mingling in their group as symbolic for how minorities will now be accepted and welcomed completely in America.

It's crass and cheap to play to the hope of people who, even after the nominee becomes president, can only hold onto their hope. For a president's promise to minorities rarely becomes reality.

By Yared Salgado, Reporter

"It's Nader for me. I know he doesn't have a realistic chance of winning, but it's an investment vote for the future of the Green Party, getting our voices heard and our name out there."

—Jessica LaGrange,  
third year student

Quotes Compiled by Julie Ahn,  
Interim Editor